



Sir John Cass's Foundation and Red Coat CofE Secondary School & Sixth Form College

We will achieve excellence and inspire generations the Cass way

Headteacher: Mr P. Woods

February 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing again with a number of key updates. This is a busy half term for us all at school with examinations for Year 11, Year 9 preparing for the options process and a wide variety of other activities taking place. Please follow our social media for regular updates.

Attendance

National data consistently shows that almost eight out of ten students who have 100% attendance gain five or more good passes at GCSE. When attendance drops to 90%, only five out of ten students achieve this. This is why we place such importance on all students aiming for 100%. In the past week rewards have been given out to students and groups with the highest attendance. I am delighted at the efforts shown and the positive impact this is having on student achievement.

The link between attendance and achievement is clear and I would like to remind parents that in the first instance, if your child presents themselves to you as 'unwell' then please send them to school regardless. At school our medical needs coordinator, Ms Anderson can assess them if they continue to feel unwell. We will call you should there be a need for your child to go home.

Children sometimes have to miss school because of illness or if they have long-term medical issues. If this is the case, you should contact school the same day to let us know the reason why your child is not in school. Please be familiar with our school processes for reporting absence that are available on the school website.

Parental Support with Homework / Independent Study

We are appreciative of the many ways in which parents support their children's education at Sir John Cass Red Coat School. In regards to homework, we recognise the efforts that parents and carers make, ensuring students have a quiet place to work at home on a regular basis in order to complete their homework. We also know from listening to students, that parental interest in homework is appreciated, even if students may not show it at the time! If you have any questions about homework in a particular subject, please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance. However, as we are launching the Parent View App for all parents this will enable you to monitor the progress of your child in school more closely. As our use of the app develops, you will be able to view a range of information including attendance data, behaviour, homework reminders, school reports and information about extra-curricular activities. Letter to parents have gone out and there is further information on the school website.

Year 9 Parents' Evening + Year 9 Options 2020

As parents and students will be aware, the time is quickly approaching for our Year 9 students to start considering the qualifications that they would like to study at GCSE in Years 10 and 11. Tutors, academic staff and pastoral leaders will be supporting students and their parents to ensure a positive pathway through this process. The Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on 12th February 2020, with the Options Evening taking place after half term on 10th March 2020. At this event, all subjects will be represented by members of staff, who will provide information regarding the curriculum studied in each area and will offer guidance on how to approach selecting courses for further study.

This is an exciting time for both students and the school. We are committed to working closely with students and their families to ensure that every individual studies courses that they enjoy, that they will achieve in and that will result in a broad portfolio of qualifications. Although nationally there is much concern about a narrow curriculum, I am pleased to assure parents that we continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that cherishes the Arts, Humanities, Sciences, Languages, PE, Art & Design Technology, English and Maths and many others as equal partners in an inspiring and fulfilling education.

Key Events for this term

All dates can be found on the school website; however below are key events coming up. Please check our website and social media feeds for updates on events.

Spring Term

Year 9 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12th February 2020
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2020
Founder's Day	Thursday 27th February 2020
Year 9 Options' Evening	Tuesday 10th March 2020
Year 7 examinations	From Monday 23rd March 2020
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1st April 2020
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 3rd April 2020

Enrichment Activities – New clubs

As mentioned in my previous letters, we value the importance of enrichment activities and the contribution these make to our students' development. We have a range of extracurricular activities on offer and this term some new additions have been made to the programme including Music Technology Club. Full details can be found on the school website. Please encourage your child to participate.

Thank you as always for your support of Sir John Cass Red Coat School. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email on info@sjcr.net.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher