



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

VIDETE BONA DOMINI

29th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your continued support of the College and through that, your children. It has been a busy term and one that I hope your family has found enjoyable, useful and memorable.

SIXTH FORM

We have been pleased with the number of applications that we have received for admission to the Sixth Form – in the region of 150. I hope that the students, which include a number of external applicants, attain the GCSE grades that they need to be admitted onto their preferred courses.

We recently appointed two excellent A level teachers. Andre Goddard, who has years of successful A level experience at Lampton School, Hounslow, joins us as head of Social Sciences and will lead subjects like Psychology, Sociology, Media Studies, Business Studies and Economics. He will be joined by Amanda Povey, a specialist Psychology teacher currently at St Andrew's Catholic School in Leatherhead.

YEAR 11

We wish all of our first GCSE cohort well as they enter the final stages of their study before the formal examinations begin in May. I hope that they are using their time profitably and heeding the advice of their teachers.

READY & EQUIPPED...

Thank you to all High School parents whose children consistently come to College ready and equipped to learn. For those few who need supporting, please check **page 11 of the College planner** for the list of items that are expected to be in their pencil case every day. Please use the holidays to replenish stocks and be ready for the Summer Term.

UNIFORM

Students continue to wear their uniform smartly and we are proud to receive many compliments on their appearance. Thank you for ensuring that your child has the correct



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Principal: Richard Burke BSc MA
Diocese of Westminster

College bag and shoes. May we also remind you that haircuts should be conventional; in particular, hair should not be dyed an unnatural colour and boys' hair should be clear of their collar, not be shorter than a Grade 2, or cover their ears. Shaved lines and patterns are not permitted.

Please ensure that all belongings can be identified with owners' names. We are still collecting a large number of un-named items and these will be re-cycled at the end of each half-term.

It would be disappointing if we have to send students home to rectify and uniform or equipment issues at the beginning of the Summer Term, so please check that everything is in place for April 12th.

STAFFING CHANGES

The Summer Term will see us welcome Ms McMullen as the Head of Primary School, she will be an asset to the College and I am sure you will wish her well, particularly those who knew her from St James'. Also joining us in the Primary School as an SEN and Safeguarding specialist will be Ms Hartland who has recently been working with St Osmund's in Barnes.

We welcomed back Mrs Lord earlier this week from her maternity leave and look forward to welcoming back Ms Dodsworth in the new term.

We also say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Farrar, who begins her maternity leave, Mrs Lok from the Finance department and Mr Feeney and Mr Davies.

GRADE COLLECTIONS (Years 7-10)

You should have recently received these, please reply online to confirm that you have. Please also find some time to discuss learning with your daughter/son and let their form tutor know if there are any particular issues that may be hindering their progress in any lesson.

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS

We are close to finalising the GCSE choices for year 9. These will be communicated in due course.

Currently, most students in Year 11 and 10 study for 10 GCSEs. The national average last year was 8.2. After the GCSE results this summer we will be able to review and evaluate our curriculum offer more effectively, however anecdotal evidence from across the College and beyond suggests a significantly increased level of subject content in many GCSEs. Whilst the quality of learning and teaching is probably the most important factor in determining GCSE outcomes, we are considering reducing the number of GCSEs available to enable us to give more time to the number that we do eventually offer.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

There is a very strong and obvious correlation between academic attainment and attendance. Pupils and students should not miss College unless they are particularly and

unusually unwell. If your child is too sick to attend College please inform the College by phone or email as soon as possible. **Students are responsible catching up with any learning missed through any absence.**

If any students arrive to College after 8.30am they **MUST** sign in at the Reception. The vast majority of students arrive in good time however if students are late, they will serve a late detention. We are, of course, conscious of and sympathetic to extenuating circumstances however there is always traffic in this part of South West London.

GOVERNORS' FUND – SPORTS HALL APPEAL

We recently wrote to you regarding the financial contributions we request as voluntary aided schools. There is more information on our website, however if you do not already contribute I would urge you to consider joining the many other parents who have. We are distinctly different to schools that are NOT Catholic. We are funded differently, and therefore we need parental contributions to attempt to make up this difference. It is shocking that not more parents/carers appreciate the financial demands we have as a Catholic school and contribute accordingly. Whilst we understand not everyone can contribute, a high number of parents are still not contributing to the fund and this severely restricts the resources available to our pupils. Details of how to contribute to this fund are available on our website under "SUPPORT".

Thank you to all those families that have also supported our separate plea to support our sports hall completion. We have a huge shell that our students and staff are desperate to start using to avoid having to go off-site for PE or use very limited facilities. We will be sending out details of fundraising events and ways to get involved in fundraising at the start of the summer term.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who have sponsored me to complete my Camino Challenge. 300 miles, 4 days, one bike. To date we have raised over £5000, I hope by the time I collapse in front of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela it will be a lot more.

COMMUNICATION

Please remember to keep your contact details accurate by informing the College via the office of any changes as soon as possible. Virtually all parents have supplied a working email address to enable us to communicate via ParentMail.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 17 April	Music Concert: Infinity & Beyond, 6.30pm
Wednesday 18 April	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
Wednesday 25 April	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
Wednesday 2 May	Primary Parents' Information Evening
Friday 4 May	Feast Day Good News Concert, 6.30pm
Wednesday 9 May	Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening
Friday 29 June	Feast Day High School closes 1.30pm tbc Year 11 Leavers' Celebration 2.00pm

AND FINALLY

The summer term begins on **Thursday 12th April at 8.30am** for the High School and **8.45am** for the Primary School.

During Lent we should be reflecting on our lives, remembering the promises made at our Baptism, and looking forward and preparing ourselves for the death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.E. Burke', written in a cursive style.

R.E. Burke
Principal