



As my first year at St. Catherine's College draws to a close, I wanted to write to you to say thank you for the overwhelming support that I have received from you and your children. We have had an incredibly successful year and it has been wonderful to receive such positive feedback from parents and carers as well as the students, who are a credit to you and the school.

The last few weeks of any term are inevitably busy and this term has been no exception. Once again, I have felt proud, humbled and truly amazed with the variety of events concluding our school year: the Year 11 leavers' assembly and prom; CCF camp; Bushcraft; the 'Urban Jump' trip for our winning House team (Endeavour); the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' weekend; Town Sports; Year 10 work experience; the 'Mandarin Excellence Trip' to China; Sports Day; college 'Taster Days', the 'Make it Count' maths trip; the 'Creative Café' workshop at the De La Warr Pavillion; Year 6 transition days and the Performing Arts Evening to name just a few.

As you will know, these events do not happen by accident and are down to our committed, driven and inspiring staff, who go above and beyond, putting in an inordinate amount of hard work on a daily basis for our exceptional young people. As their Headteacher, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the Governing Body, to publicly acknowledge them and give our sincere, heartfelt thanks for their relentless passion, dedication and loyalty.

I am so proud and privileged to lead this school. The teamwork and dedication of staff, no matter what their role, in ensuring your children thrive educationally, socially, emotionally and spiritually is second to none. So, it is with regret that we sadly have to say goodbye to two teachers who are moving on in their careers at the end of this academic year. Firstly, we are saying goodbye to Luke Honeybourne who has been with us for over 15 years and is now moving on to a well-deserved promoted post. We are also saying goodbye to Romel Salinas who has been an excellent teacher, filling a short-term contract. We want to wish them both the very best for the next stage in their careers.

I firmly believe that working in partnership with parents and carers is vital so that all pupils here at St. Catherine's find school to be a rewarding and positive experience. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who attended the Parent Forums. Their feedback, detailing both our strengths and areas for development, has had such a positive impact in moving the School forward. My thanks also go to Mrs Thomas and Mr Jewell for facilitating this group. We hope more of you will be able to attend future Parent Forums, the details of which will be shared in the new academic year.

With your support, we have also been able to raise thousands of pounds for local, national and international charities. In addition, we have been very grateful for the fundraising which allows us to continuously improve and develop our students' school environment. One such improvement is our exciting new playground which we will be open for the start of the new academic year.

As we make plans for next year, it is with a focus on our responsibility to make sure that each and every one of our children is able to reach their God-given potential, so that they can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their peers locally, nationally and globally. I want to reassure you that it is our intention to strive for academic excellence, inspiring our whole school community to be ambitious, hardworking, resilient and responsible.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of staff and students at St. Catherine's College and wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Thursday 5 September 2019.

Solomon Berhane, Headteacher

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GOD'S CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Together we *listen*, *learn*, *achieve*

## UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

A report from Mrs Butcher:



Huge congratulations to Elizabeth, Year 8 pupil, for her fantastic success in the UKMT Maths Challenge.

Elizabeth breezed through the first round with a score of 129 and was invited to sit the Junior Olympiad. This consists of 16 questions which include demonstrating mathematical proofs and problem solving. Calculators are not allowed!

Elizabeth did superbly well with an extremely high score which achieved a Distinction and a Silver Medal. This puts Elizabeth in the top 10% of highest achieving Mathematicians, of this age, in the Country! Well done, Elizabeth!

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

At St Catherine's College we have many amazing students and we feel it is important that we celebrate their achievements collectively. If you have something that you would be happy for us to share, please email Mrs Schaaf: [sschaaf@stcatherines.college](mailto:sschaaf@stcatherines.college).

## MY SERVER'S JOURNEY ..... SO FAR!

A report from Luke, Year 8 Pupil:

At the age of seven, I started serving at the altar at St Andrew's Church, Seaside. Over the years, I have progressed through the various serving roles and more recently, I have undertaken training to become a Master of Ceremonies.



I serve at the altar for most Sunday morning Masses as well as at festival days, celebratory Masses and Solemn Masses. I recently had the honour of being Thurifer to the Bishop of Chichester, The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner, at a confirmation service.

Over the years, I have learnt to become adaptable which is something I have found difficult as I have autism. In a way it has helped me to learn about myself and gain the life skills needed to function as part of a team, and resolve issues with things as they occur.

## MANDARIN EXCELLENCE TRIP



We currently have seven pupils enjoying a trip of a lifetime in Shanghai, China. They are staying at a university campus where they are taking part in a two-week intensive study programme. Pupils are experiencing the food, culture and sights during their free time.

## CAREERS EDUCATION AT ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

As all students are required to stay in education or training until the age of 18, it is essential that they are well informed and make the best decisions for their further studies after Year 11. Mrs O'Connor, our Careers Leader, works tirelessly to make sure that our pupils have access to opportunities and information about further education and career pathways. Over the year, pupils have participated in visits and activities and back in September, we hosted our very own Careers Fair. Careers Education is key to the College Development Plan and we work in partnership with the Careers Hub at East Sussex County Council to meet the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks set by the Careers Strategy (Dec 2017). We have recently appointed a new Enterprise Advisor, Matt Knight, who will be working with the school to look at ways to implement the new Careers Strategy.

On Thursday 4 July, after spending the day with an Assessor, our Investors in Careers status was renewed.

*Pictured below: Mrs O'Connor; Mr Knight; Ms Francis (Enterprise Coordinator); and Mr Berhane.*

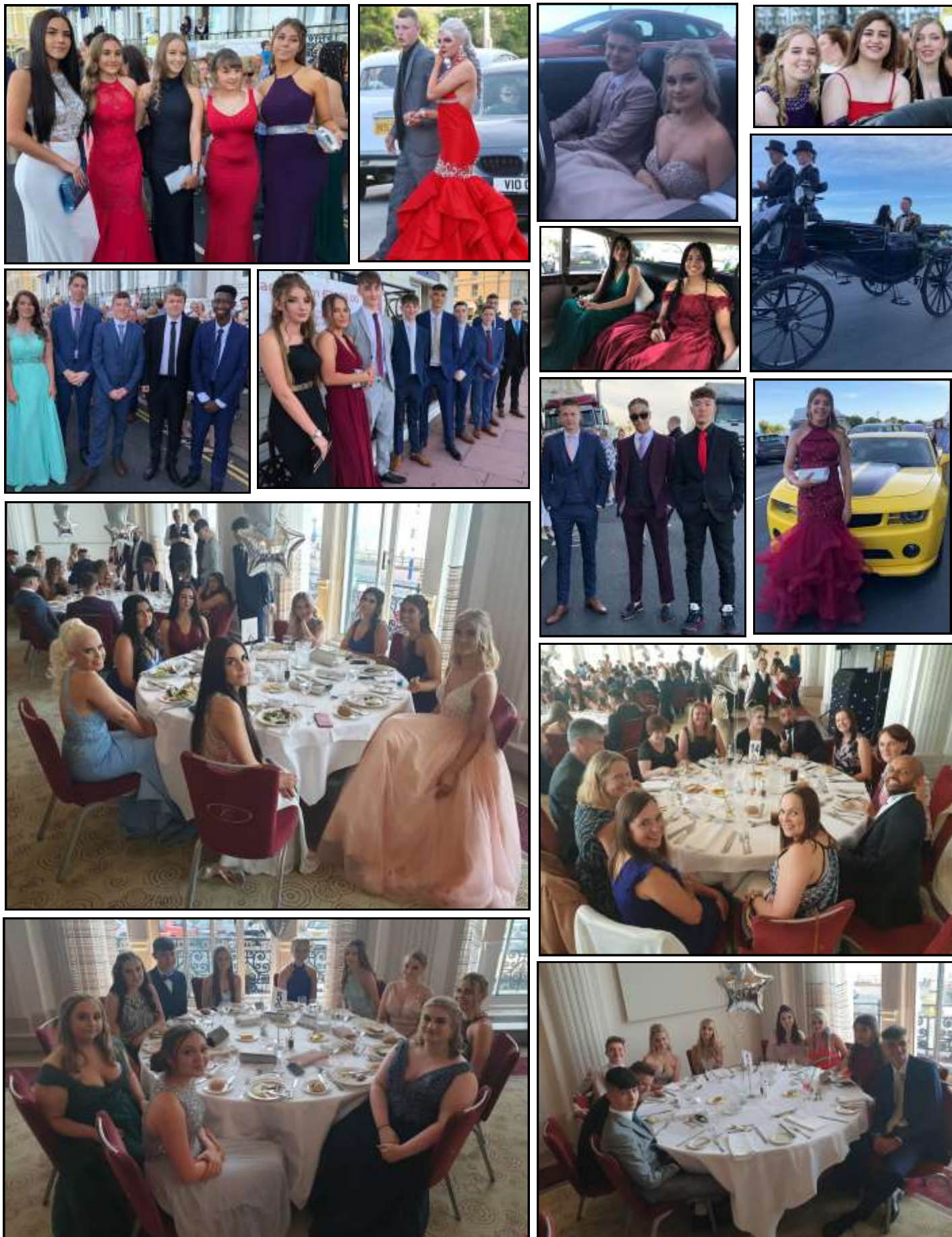




### CLASS OF 2019

Our Year 11 leavers had a wonderful evening at their prom held at the Cavendish Hotel. It was a superb and fitting celebration of a great year group's time at the school. There were spectacular arrivals, a lovely meal, photos and a disco.

We would like to wish Year 11 well as they embark upon their post-16 college courses or apprenticeships.





## SPORTS DAY 2019

A report from Miss Elliott:

The crunch of trainers on gravel; the chatter of tutor groups and the scent of sun cream told me one thing: it was sports day. You know you love it. We love it. It's the only time of year the entire school moves as a community to the sports park to participate on all levels and contribute in whatever way we can to the day. From organising the whole day: to the participation in events; to cheering on others; to tending to those in the medical-tent; to those serving refreshments; and let's not forget the great work done by those contributing products to sell in order to raise money for the House Charities. It's definitely not a 'day off' it's more like 'game on!'

Over the loud speaker, you could hear Ms Newnham-Reeve's unfaltering enthusiasm as the first event was about to begin. Mr Jewell, as always, was ready with the 'clapper' at the starting line and his eagle eyes were poised and ready to ensure a fair start was had by all. With grit and determination showing on their faces and an 'I came here to win' look in their eyes, pupils were ready for their moment. Ready. Set. Go! They were off.

By mid-morning, the first events were well under way and there was glorious support to be witnessed; nothing warms the heart more in this profession than to see pupils being cheered on by their peers, parents and teachers.

As awesome as it is to finish a race, it's a great achievement to break one of our school records too. This year there were a few notable mentions regarding the art of record breaking. In Year 7, Paige Wassel broke the record for the 200m and Kaycie Phipps in the 1500m. In Year 8, Lola Dutton in the 100m and Ellie McLean in the 1500m both produced strong performances to top the records of previous runners. Finally, Matthew Finbow in Year 9 smashed the boys 100m record and was very close to the Year 10 record – look out for Matthew next year!

After all the athletic exertion, a well-deserved break was needed. The stalls on display provided a welcome sight for competitors and supporters alike. There were a variety of stalls ranging from Bric-a-Brac, to face painting and a cake stall with a presentation that would put the Great British Bake Off final to shame. Clearly, the stalls were a success: together they raised over £300 for their selected House Charities.

Finally, before the highly anticipated results were announced, the annual tutor team tug of war event took place. It was a great event that displayed tremendous tenacity, stupendous strength and terrific team work. The encouraging energy of the crowd was palpable and emotions started to peak. As the day's events were brought to a close, we waited with baited breath - the results were in.



Taking the top spot for Year 7 was 7JCL; for Year 8 it was 8LMI; for Year 9 it was 9RMA and for Year 10, 10SGW celebrated their last sports day as winners for their Year group. However, the tutor group with the most points was the exquisite 9RMA. The overall winning house was Valiant and all Valiant tutor groups were thrilled with the result and are very proud of their House. Congratulations to all competitors and organisers.

The final note is to say a huge thank you to those who make this event so successful year after year – we're already looking forward to 2020.





## PERFORMING ARTS EVENING

A report from Mr Woozley:

Last week, we held our annual Performing Arts Evening, celebrating the very best performances in Music, Dance and Drama from pupils across the School. Highlights included the School Band playing the theme from the animated movie "My Neighbour Totoro"; a jaw-dropping performance of the song "Speechless" by Year 9 pupil, Naomi; a moody dance duet choreographed by Year 11 pupil, Ashlyn, and a scene from "Kate & Emma" performed with incredible maturity by May and Amber, Year 9 pupils.

A huge well done to all our talented performers and if you missed it this year, make sure you get your tickets next Summer!

*Pictured left: Year 11 pupils Evie and Millie*

### LAST DAY OF TERM 6- TUESDAY 23 JULY

School will finish at 1.30pm on the last day of term.

### FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 - THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

School will start at 8.40am on the first day of term.

### EXAM RESULTS

**THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2018**

**YEAR 11: 10.00am - 11.00am**

**YEAR 10: 11.00am - 12.00 noon**

### TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS

#### Year 7

Amberley Connor **707**  
 Chiamaka Nnamuka **580**  
 Isabelle Steer **574**  
 Imogen Forward **571**  
 Lauren Didsbury **552**

#### Year 8

Elizabeth Finn **843**  
 Naomi Frais **652**  
 Hannah Jeanes **635**  
 June Maunga **627**  
 Gurleen Kaur **602**

#### Year 9

Naomi Barrett **758**  
 Mia Warren **741**  
 Berrie Robertson **670**  
 Amber Davies **638**  
 Sophia Pawley **615**

#### Year 10

Lois Hilton **799**  
 Hannah Cheeseman **762**  
 Alice King **641**  
 Katherine Pawley **609**  
 Theodora Redmill **589**



### MAKE IT COUNT DAY

This week, 40 Year 9 pupils took part in 'Make It Count Day' at Bexhill College. The event allowed pupils to develop their numeracy skills through a range of practical, problem-solving activities and aimed to give them the confidence to contemplate studying subjects that incorporate the use of quantitative skills.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### July

23 Last Day of Term 6

#### **New Academic Year 2019/20**

#### September

3 INSET DAY  
 4 INSET DAY  
 5 First Day for Pupils

#### July 2020

17 Last Day of Term 6



## PREPARATION FOR THE NEW YEAR

As we continually strive to encourage our students to achieve their God-given potential in all aspects of their life we would like to take this opportunity to ask parents/carers to discuss the following expectations with your children in advance of the new academic year:

### **School Uniform**

All students are expected to wear full school uniform, both whilst journeying to or from school and, of course, on site. Plain white blouse or shirt; St Catherine's College tie with House colour; black blazer with embroidered college logo; black college trousers with embroidered college initials or tartan college skirt (skirts should not be rolled over at the waistband); unpatterned dark grey or black socks or natural or black tights; formal plain black leather (or leather type) shoes with closed toe and heels no higher than 5cm; grey v-neck jumper (optional). Students who come to school with incorrect uniform for any reason, will be offered an alternative from our stock for that day, or be asked to go home and return appropriately dressed.

### **Attendance**

Research has shown that the higher a student's attendance, the better chance they have of achieving success, as they are not missing out on learning. This means that we encourage all students to aim to have an attendance of 100%. Unless your child has an identified medical reason we would expect them to attend school. For minor ailments we ask that you encourage your child to start the school day. We also ask where possible, that appointments with doctors and dentists are made out of school hours, although we do accept in some cases the professional appointment time is allocated, rather than selected by you.

### **Punctuality**

Being on time is an important aspect of working life and we expect all students to be on site by 8:35am each day. Can you please encourage your child to set off for school in plenty of time, and not leave preparation for the day until the last minute? If a student is late to school they will be set a same day lunchtime detention. If there is a genuine reason for lateness, please ensure that you contact the School prior to your child's arrival or write a note in their diary to avoid such a detention.

### **Mobile Phones**

Although we allow students to bring mobile phones and headphones to school, at their own risk, they must remain switched off and out of sight whilst they are in the College building. Any devices that are seen or heard will be confiscated. Students are permitted to use their devices during break and lunchtime in any of the outside areas. Should we have to confiscate a device, it may be that a parent will be required to come and collect it.

### **Being Prepared**

So that we don't waste valuable learning time, we expect all students to arrive each day with all the necessary equipment to learn, as outlined in the Student Diary.

### **Homework**

At St Catherine's College we value homework because it supports our students to make better progress and it also helps them to become independent learners. We ask that every student completes approximately two hours of independent study per day as they aim for success. Some of this will be homework which teachers set (Homework Club runs every day at lunch time and after school in the Library). The remainder should be independent study such as reading, revision and question practice.

### **Reading**

Please encourage your child to read, or better still, read with them. All research shows that children who read at home achieve stronger academic results. By encouraging your child to read for 15 minutes per day, four times a week, you are helping them to achieve success not just in school, but later in life.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

We would like to thank you again for all your support for the staff and students of St Catherine's college.