



The phrase "school days are the best days of our life" is, in my opinion, only something that a person can look back and reflect on afterwards. It is only then, when you have left school, or education, and someone says something that triggers a thought in your mind about your school life, will this phrase have relevance. It is fair to say that there are so many great opportunities at school for you to make every second of your school life memorable, and it all starts by being here, at St Catherine's every day. Learning should be life long, and the skills learned at school should set you up for your journey ahead.

At St Catherine's College we strive to give all pupils every opportunity to succeed. We have a lunch and after-school club in the Library every day, where pupils can come and focus on their school work, with the added support of a member of staff and access to any resources needed. Tuesdays to Fridays our dedicated Maths Department run after-school revision sessions, working alongside and supporting our disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils. The English and Science Departments also run revision workshops during the week, designed to give the best possible support to all of our pupils. Additionally, there is support available to help with pupils' mental health and wellbeing. Workshops and additional mindfulness space have been made available to help our pupils overcome any barriers that may hold them back from reaching their full potential.

For some of our pupils, there may be the need for extra support and interventions to help them to achieve the very best they can, both academically and/or pastorally. For some of these pupils, the additional resources and initiatives are financed through the Pupil Premium Fund. Schools are given a Pupil Premium funding for:

- Children who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years or are currently on free school meals
- Children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day.
- Children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

Every year, St Catherine's College produces a Pupil Premium Statement, available on the School Website, that shows how this money is spent. There are four key

desired outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils that we believe will help close the gaps between them and their peers:

- Raising attendance
- Improved behaviour (Behaviour for Learning: to improve student focus and reduce low level disruption).
- Excellent teaching, learning and assessment
- Increasing participation and raising aspirations (Build an aspirational culture)

If you would like to know more about Pupil Premium, how to apply for free school meals or have some suggestions on ways in which the school might be able to support your child, then please contact me: [rlau@stcatherines.college](mailto:rlau@stcatherines.college).

Ray Lau, Acting Assistant Headteacher

UNPLUGGED CONCERT AT THE BIRLEY CENTRE

A report from Mr Woozley:

On Saturday 9 February, some of our talented musicians took part in a charity concert organised by the Eastbourne Schools Partnership. The theme of the concert was 'Unplugged' and profits went to support the mental health charity 'Campaign Against Living Miserably' (CALM).



We had two acts taking part: Evie and Millie, Year 11 pupils, who sang a Latin-jazz-infused cover of Stitches by Shawn Mendes; and Lacey, Lillie and Sean, Year 10 pupils, who performed one of Lacey's

original songs entitled 'Heroes'. Their performances were very strong, and it was also a pleasure to hear acts from a variety of schools across Eastbourne, including solo singers, bands and a choir.



## YOUR EVOLVING SCHOOL

Schools in the 21st Century are unrecognisable from those that we parents attended in the past. My memories of squeaking chalk on a blackboard can still send cold shivers down my spine today! Also, consigned to landfill or museums, must be 1000s of over-head projectors and video recorders.

Changes today at St Catherine's College extend well beyond technology. At the mid-point of the academic year, we have been reflecting upon what's working well (or not) as we plan for the next stage in the school's improvement. What's working well includes:

- **The raising of expectations around behaviour.** Ofsted commented that they "found orderly conduct around the school. Pupils were polite and friendly and working diligently in lessons." Despite continued positive feedback, we continue to increase standards and decrease tolerance of any disruption to learning.
- **Curriculum Planning.** We have been reviewing the structure of our Key Stage 3 and subsequent Key Stage 4 options. We will announce the outcome shortly. Staff have been planning for an exciting breadth to what we teach from September to inspire pupils through their subjects, rather than simply preparing for exams.
- **Improved attendance.** An analysis of St Catherine's College class of 2018 gave a clear message: pupils with full attendance averaged a grade 5.5 (grade B in old money!) in each GCSE; pupils with <90% attendance averaged a grade 2 (an old F). We are delighted to report that attendance has been increasing throughout 2018-19.
- **The new school day.** 60-minute lessons have been universally welcomed by parents, pupils and teachers. The pace and purpose of lessons has increased, leading to improved engagement, learning and progress. Most lessons also now start with quick recall quizzes of previous work to support memory and retention of knowledge, as well as improved continuity between lessons or topics.

We are not complacent and recognise that there remain areas for further improvement. These are:

- **Homework.** Pupils need to be working harder out of class and teachers will be setting more homework. Please can I remind everyone of the expectation that pupils should be completing approximately two hours per night. We do not usually set that much formal homework. It is crucial that pupils develop their own independent study habits through learning, revision and practice or losing themselves in a good book. Watch this space for more detail from Mrs Inch shortly!
- **Raising aspirations.** As Mr Berhane has said at many parent events, we want children to be ambitious for their futures. Someone has to play Premiership football; run a bank; own the most successful business in Eastbourne; make the next medical research break-through; or inspire the next generation. We want every pupil to fulfil and enjoy their God-given potential, and to find that doors of opportunity are open to them.

In working on all the above, we are grateful for the continued and growing partnership with parents. We have met large numbers at Parents' Evenings (all years) and Parents' briefings (Years 8, 10 and 11), while participation at Parent Forums has been enthusiastic. We are hosting our next forum shortly, details of which will be shared in due course. Finally, we would be very grateful for your continued feedback. You may contact us directly if you wish to raise or discuss a specific issue. Alternatively, please complete the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>) to share your thoughts (scores) on the improvements at St Catherine's College.

Thank you all. We look forward to your continued support as we work together towards our ambition to be one of the most effective schools in the county. By achieving that, the legacy of a world-class education for your children can never be consigned to landfill, but they may go on in the future to create the museum exhibits of the future!

Nigel Jewell  
Deputy Headteacher



### YEAR 7 JUDO STAR

Huge congratulations to Mikey, Year 7 pupil, who will be representing St Catherine's college at the British Schools Judo championships this weekend. Mikey has enjoyed Judo since he was 4 years old and trains with Westcroft Judo Club which is run by his uncle who is an ex Great Britain International. Mikey regularly competes and has achieved many medals. He will be competing in the Sussex Open Judo Championships on Sunday 24 March and if he achieves gold, he will represent Sussex for the next year. Wishing Mikey lots of luck for this weekend and the Sussex Open Championships!

### FREE MEALS IN OUR CAFÉ

Did you know that your child could be entitled to a **free meal every day** if your family income is below £7,400 per year? To register please complete the form using the following link below:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>

### TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS

#### Year 7

Amberley Connor **429**  
 Chiamaka Nnamuka **398**  
 Isabelle Steer **392**  
 Rosie Williams **369**  
 Ella Kendall **363**

#### Year 8

Gurleen Kaur **430**  
 Elizabeth Finn **422**  
 Naomi Frais **409**  
 June Maunga **399**  
 Hannah Jeanes **391**

#### Year 9

Berrie Robertson **379**  
 Sophia Pawley **345**  
 Joshua Capper **341**  
 Amber Matthews **335**  
 Aaron Adams **334**

#### Year 10

Lois Hilton **400**  
 Alice King **385**  
 Hannah Cheeseman **374**  
 Katherine Pawley **372**  
 Theodora Redmill **341**

#### Year 11

Millie-Louise Thomas **610**  
 Evie Loose **546**  
 Philippa Jewell **534**  
 Hannah Payne **476**  
 Emmeline Bell **463**



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### March

19 Y7 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm

#### April

4 Y11 Photos  
 4 Y9 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm  
 5 Last Day of Term 4  
 23 First Day of Term 5  
 24 Y10 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 7.00pm  
 29 Y8 & Y10 Assessment Fortnight begins

#### May

13 Y7 & Y9 Assessment Fortnight begins  
 20 Y8 HPV Immunisations  
 24 Last Day of Term 5

#### June

3 First Day of Term 6  
 14 Town Sports  
 17-21 Y10 Work Experience Week

#### July

1-5 Y8 Bushcraft Camp Trip  
 1 Y6 Familiarisation Day  
 2 Y6 Taster Day  
 12 Sports Day  
 23 Last Day of Term 6

### PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governing Body at St Catherine's College currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor.

Parent Governors play a vital role on governing bodies, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through their children, they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from the 'consumers' point of view. This enables Parent Governors to bring a different perspective to the strategic management of the school.

There are six full governing body meetings a year which normally last around two hours.

If you are interested in helping with this important role, please complete the attached nomination form by end of school on Friday 29 March 2019. Forms need to be returned to the school in a sealed envelope and marked for the attention of the Clerk to Governor's. If more than one nomination is received, a ballot will be arranged which will include the election statement required on the attached form.

If you would like more information, you might find it helpful to talk to one of our Governors. This can be arranged by emailing Paula Palmer, our Clerk to Governors, on: [ppalmer@stcatherines.college](mailto:ppalmer@stcatherines.college).



**ST CATHERINE'S**  
**COLLEGE**  
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

## NOMINATION FOR PARENT GOVERNOR

**Full Name:**

**Address:**

**Preferred Contact Telephone Number:**

**Preferred Contact Email Address:**

**Parent/Legal Guardian of (name and class):**

**I wish to stand for election as a Parent Governor at St Catherine's College. The following two parents or legal guardians of pupils attending the school support my nomination:**

**1. Name:**

**Address:**

**Parent/Legal Guardian of (name and class):**

**2. Name:**

**Address:**

**Parent/Legal Guardian of (name and class):**

**ELECTION STATEMENT (no more than 100 words), please use additional sheet if required.**