



Welcome to the year's first edition of Contact, and a particularly warm welcome from the St Catherine's Community to our New Year 7s. Contact is published on alternate Fridays and reading it is a great way to keep up-to-date with news and events at St Catherine's College.

Our Year 7s have made an excellent start to their secondary school careers and are enjoying the new experiences with the specialist teachers and new facilities. I have been delighted with their transition to St. Catherine's College. They have conducted themselves so responsibly, wearing their new uniform with pride – looking immaculate and so mature. They are confident and happy students who are fully integrating into our school, along with our other wonderful students in Years 8 to 11.

You may have noticed some enhancements to our site recently including our new playground. We will continue to make these planned improvements for our students, which will contribute to the tangible feeling of pride that we all share in being part of St Catherine's College. I hope you will agree that they make a really positive first impression to the School.

As we have previously shared with you, our new school vision includes the values of ambition, hard-work, resilience and responsibility. These are important because we want our students to aim high, determined to do their best every day; work hard, because this is essential in rising to any worthwhile challenge; to accept that practise is necessary to make something perfect and never be frightened to try again when things go wrong and to show care and consideration for those around us. We look forward to the students adopting these values as they aim for success.

One way in which you can support your child to adopt these values is by ensuring the effective completion of homework. Learning never stops and homework provides opportunities to find out more through reading; to practise through completing tasks and to learn through revision. Homework is an essential component of the deeper learning which feeds directly to the successes reported above.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our Year 11 class of

2018-19 who achieved strong and improved outcomes. These improvements are reflected across all subjects. Pass rates in all GCSEs are up 9% to 76%. An impressive 22 students, over 10% of the year group, achieved at least six grade 7-9s, equivalent to the old A* and A grades. Well done to students and staff who have worked incredibly hard to achieve these improved results. Further details can be found on our website.

I would like to thank you all for your continual support.

Solomon Berhane, Headteacher

WE ARE ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

"I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full". These words from Jesus, quoted in John 10 v10, sum up the aims of our new College Vision. We aim for all our students to flourish and excel in all they do, so that they can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with anyone; not just as confident and well-educated students, but as responsible citizens within society. Success comes from working with, not against others, so a pillar of our staff training on the Inset days was the importance of living and sharing 'The Golden Rule' to treat others as we would want to be treated.

Mr Berhane has written about the importance of the values within our vision. Worship (assemblies) will give students the chance to explore these values and how these can create a better society. As a Church School, we go the extra mile to provide a safe environment with the best possible pastoral care and to give students the opportunity to explore the big questions about the fullness of life. As our students pursue wisdom, knowledge and skills through their learning, we look forward to working with you to build that success upon trust, hope in the good and the centrality of relationships and community. We are St Catherine's College.

Nigel Jewell, Deputy Headteacher

EARLY CLOSURE - TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

School will be closing at **2.15pm** on Tuesday 17 September for staff to prepare for Open Evening, and to give the students that are helping a proper rest before returning in the evening. If this causes problems, please let us know and arrangements will be made to supervise your child until 3.05pm. Many thanks for your support.



WELCOME YEAR 7!

A report from Mr Williams:

St Catherine's College would like to extend a very warm welcome to the students and parents of our new Year 7. The students are to be congratulated for making an excellent start; from the beginning they have shown outstanding enthusiasm and positivity as well as excellent manners. The atmosphere in lessons has been very positive and there has been a lot of encouraging feedback from teachers citing a fantastic focus on learning and exemplary behaviour.

Starting at secondary school can be daunting; there is a lot to learn, including finding one's way around the building. Mrs Clegg and the Year 7 tutor team have provided excellent support for the students, helping them to settle in and feel confident.

The new playground is being well used by Year 7 at break and lunchtime and is a superb addition to the school's facilities. There will be further work to this soon to further enhance the area with shelters and play apparatus.

Extra-curricular activities are now underway and there was a very good turn-out at the first football session this week. There will be articles in Contact over coming weeks to celebrate the activities and success of the students.

Please could parents ensure that every item of their child's clothing and property is labelled with their name - it is inevitable that Year 7 students will occasionally mislay things and clear labels will really help in returning items should they be lost.

This positive start bodes well for a very bright future for this group of Year 7 students.

OPEN MONTH

Monday 23 September - Friday 25 October

Tours of the school will take place in small groups during the school day. Please contact the school to make an appointment: admin@stcatherines.college or 01323 465400.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

A report from Mrs Poston:

A huge thank you to all the families who have donated uniform. We now have a good stock to lend or give to those who need it.



READING AT ST CATHERINE'S



A report from Ms Simpson:

For students to stand shoulder to shoulder with their peers, locally, nationally and globally, we must ensure that they are reading regularly. 90% of a child's vocabulary comes from reading. If your child is a reluctant reader, then they are placing themselves at a disadvantage.

To encourage reading, St Catherine's is beginning to 'Register and Read'!

Fortnightly, on a specific day of Week B, each Tutor group will read either a fictional extract, or a piece of non-fiction writing. These texts will be challenging, interesting and



will hopefully expose our students to vocabulary and language they have not yet encountered. We will be expecting students to engage with what they are reading, ask questions and take control of discussions, with support and guidance from their tutors.



All teachers at St Catherine's display what they are currently reading, whether it is non-fiction or fiction and we encourage all students to ask about these books. We would love support from parents, carers and families to engage in the discussion with why it is so beneficial to read and also what you are reading at home.

In addition to our dedicated fortnightly opportunities for reading and discussion during Tutor time, we have bolstered our Library with copies of new books from recommended reading lists, chosen by the English Department, specific to each year group. Students are encouraged to visit the library at lunchtime and after school to check out a book, talk to our wonderful librarian for recommendations and then get reading! The expectation at St Catherine's is that every student should have a book to read in their bags; with our new additions, this would be a perfect opportunity to peruse our lovely, new collection and find a book that will be perfect for them.

JUDO STAR



Huge congratulations to Year 11 pupil, Herculas, who recently participated in the African Cup in Tunisia and was awarded Silver. Well done, Herculas!

SAFEGUARDING

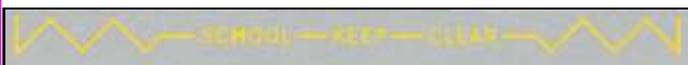
A report from Mrs Guppy, Director of Safeguarding: Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely summer and were able to enjoy the sunshine. As you may know, ensuring that our children are safe is always a priority at St Catherine's College.



One of our priorities this year, will be to support children and parents around the issue of cyber bullying. We will be sharing information and guidance throughout the year on how we can all ensure that children are safe online. We would like to work alongside our children, and their parents, to ensure that all incidents of cyber bullying are identified and resolved as quickly as possible.

If you have any concerns about bullying or cyber bullying, please contact me (01323 465438 / kguppy@stcatherines.college) or encourage your child to talk to me or staff in Student Services.

POLITE REQUEST



Please be reminded that, when waiting to collect your children at the end of the school day, cars are not to park on the zigzag lines. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be patrolling the area immediately outside school and will be politely asking people to move on from these areas in order to safeguard our students. Thank you for your support.

STUDENT LEADERS



After a rigorous interview process we are excited to be welcoming our new Student Leadership Team into their roles.

At St Catherine's College we have amazing and innovative students who have a strong vision for the development of all areas of their education. The role of the Student Leadership Team is to come up with ideas for the future as well as offer guidance and suggestions on whole school plans. We look forward to sharing news on their various projects in the near future.

Pictured Left: Head Students with Mr Berhane

Pictured Below: Student Leadership Team with Mr Wenham (Head of Year 11)



FORMER PUPIL ACCEPTED AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Huge congratulations to Thomas Finn, former pupil, who has been accepted to study Maths at Trinity College, Cambridge, after achieving 3 A*s and an A in his A Levels, and top grades in the Cambridge Maths papers (STEP).

Thomas left St Catherine's College in 2017 and studied maths, further maths, physics and computer science at Bexhill College.

Whilst at St Catherine's, Thomas participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and scored highly in the Senior Challenge and Olympiad papers. As a result of this, he was selected for the UK team which took part in the Balkan Mathematical Olympiad in Moldova in May. Thomas was awarded a bronze medal for his performance in the two 4.5 hour papers. Well done Thomas!

ANTI-BULLYING

A report from Mr Pittman:

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at St Catherine's College. We believe that all children should be able to learn in a supportive, friendly and safe environment based on Christian care, without fear of being bullied, so that they can achieve their God-given potential. We encourage parents to contact their child's Assistant Head of Year should they have a concern about bullying or any unpleasant behaviour.

In our college, we define bullying as the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace.

Sometimes pupils have friendship problems which can be extremely upsetting and unpleasant. It is important to distinguish between these and bullying as they are likely to be addressed in different ways. However, we recognise that repeated friendship problems can sometimes lead to bullying behaviour. In all cases we will respond swiftly and take the appropriate actions.

At St Catherine's we have a 'listening culture'. Pupils are encouraged to report upsetting incidents to a wide range of adults like their parent, Tutor, Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year, or any other staff member. They can speak to the member of staff in person; send an email to the member of staff's work email or to bullying@stcatherines.college or place a message in the anti-bullying box in Student Services.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

- 17 Open Evening, 17.45 - 20.00
- 23-18 Open Month Tours, 09.15 - 11.00

October

- 3 Post 16 and Beyond Event
- 23-28 Y10 Geography Trip to Morocco
- 24-27 Y9 & Y10 French Immersion Trip
- 25 End of Term 1

November

- 4 Start of Term 2
- 13 Y11 Mock Interviews
- 14 Awards Evening
- 22 INSET Day

December

- 13 Christmas Jumper Day
- 20 End of Term 2

January

- 6 Start of Term 3

February

- 7 Mufti Day
- 14 End of Term 3
- 24 Start of Term 4

March

- 6 Y9 Booster Vaccinations

April

- 3 Mufti Day
- 3 Last Day of Term 4
- 20 First Day of Term 5
- 29 Y8 HPV Vaccinations

May

- 8 Bank Holiday
- 22 Last Day of Term 5
- 23-27 Y8 & Y9 Italy Cultural Trip

June

- 1 First Day of Term 6
- 19 Town Sports
- 26-29 Y9 French Immersion Trip
- 29 Y10 Work Experience Week starts
- 30 Y6 Induction Evening

July

- 3 Y10 Work Experience Week ends
- 7 Y6 Taster Day
- 8 Y6 Taster Day
- 10 Sports Day
- 17 Last Day of Term 6

