



# ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

SBE/STH/NJE/SSC

5 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to see the students back in college this week; we have had an incredibly positive start to the new term.

## Exam results

We are really pleased to let you know that St Catherine's College achieved another set of strong GCSE results this year. We are proud to report that our results have risen since 2019, which is the pre-Covid benchmark used nationally in this year's grading. English and maths both had grade 9-4 pass rates of over 70%. We also had a number of other subjects exceeding a 90% pass rate, including biology, chemistry and physics; art and drama; motor vehicle and early years. Our students have embodied our college values of ambition, hard work, resilience and responsibility throughout their studies, and they fully deserve their success. We are all very proud of them.

Several students also secured generous scholarships to leading independent schools. We wish all our leavers and their families the very best for their futures and we continue to pray for their ongoing success. We hope our class of 2023 will always feel part of the St Catherine's College community and would love them to keep in touch to share their successes.

## Homework

One of the key reasons that our students can achieve such excellent results is because of the hard work they do both in college and at home.

Research shows that homework can add an extra five months of learning to each academic year. We will continue to have a real focus on homework this year and into the future. We would value your ongoing support in this area. You can see all your child's homework on Arbor.

For children who prefer to stay at college to complete their homework, or for those who would like additional support, we offer a staffed homework club in the library, Monday – Thursday until 4.15pm. This is on top of the support which our departments offer.

## Thorpe Park

We are very excited about our whole college trip to Thorpe Park which is taking place on Friday 22 September. Please let us know if you would like your child to go but have missed the application deadline.

The final payment of £13.80 should have now been paid to secure your child's place on the trip. If you have not yet paid the full balance, please log onto [ParentPay](#) to make this payment. This payment only applies to non-Merlin Pass holders. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you need any financial assistance for this trip.

Merlin Pass holders need to ensure that they have booked their own park tickets in advance, using [this link](#). Students will also need to bring in their Merlin Passes and give them to their Assistant Head of Year by Friday 9 September. Further details about the trip will be sent to you shortly.

If your child is not attending the trip, we look forward to welcoming them into college as normal. An adjusted timetable for these students will follow.

### Open Evening – Early Closure

St Catherine’s College Open Evening for prospective families is taking place on Tuesday 12 September from 4.30pm. Our open evenings have proved to be hugely popular in the past and we have attracted large numbers of visitors into the College. To prepare for the evening effectively, we will need to close the college early to all year groups. This early closure also allows our many student helpers to have adequate time for a break before the evening commences.

The timings for this early closure day are below:

Timing	Session
Tutor – Lesson 2	As per normal
11.10am - 11.40am	Extended breaktime
11.45am - 12.30pm	Lesson 3
	<b>All students leave college at 12.30pm</b>

Students will be able to collect their lunch during the extended breaktime. We regret that we must close early, and we are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause to you as parents/carers. As always, please do let us know if you require a space in college for your child during that afternoon by completing this [Form](#).

### Whole College Photos

Student photographs for this academic year are taking place on Friday 15 September. More information on this will follow shortly.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding any of the above.

Yours faithfully

Solomon Berhane  
Headteacher

Sophie Thomas  
Head of School

Nigel Jewell  
Deputy Headteacher

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6*