



21st July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We come to the end of another very busy and successful year. Moving into our new building has been a particular highlight and I am grateful to the many people who have taken the time to either email or speak to me in person to say how pleased you are with the outcome. Thank you. Some initial teething problems aside, the building is a real pleasure to learn and work in.

Final work on demolition is underway and the landscaping of the site has started. As things stand, we anticipate that the project will be fully complete by the October 2017 half-term.

You will also have seen in a recent letter that we continue to invest in and upgrade our facilities, with the AstroTurf being upgraded to a 3G pitch from the start of next term. Please do not forget that from that point your child will need very particular footwear if they want to access the surface at any time.

Last Friday's Creative Community Showcase highlighted the many creative talents of both staff and students and was a real pleasure to walk around. We look forward to displaying as much of the work as possible around school.

With the many changes in GCSE and A Level specifications and grading, this year's exam results are a particular unknown, with the Government regularly highlighting to both schools and parents that they should expect turbulence, and that results this year cannot be compared to any other year's results. Whilst I am therefore unsure as to what August will yield, what I can say with complete confidence is that staff and students could not have worked any harder. Year 11, as one example, regularly stayed after school and worked into mid-evening in our restaurant area. All of our students deserve success this year, and I have everything crossed that such unprecedented change in our examination system will not adversely affect them.

The establishing of the Generations Multi Academy Trust and our formal takeover of the current Cheshunt School has been another key piece of work for this year. Goffs-Churchgate will open on 29th August 2017 with Tom Sparks as Principal. I will move to the position of Executive Principal overseeing the work of both schools, plus the development of the Trust. Goffs Academy will be in the capable hands of Ben Pearce. As Associate Principal he will take the lead on the day to day operation of the school; another well-deserved promotion.

Whilst we have some of the lowest staffing turnover in Hertfordshire, as part of the natural cycle of staff promotion, retirement and relocations, we have some colleagues leaving us this year. I wish each of them every possible success and happiness in the future and thank them for all of their work this year. Notwithstanding the ever increasing issues nationally with teacher recruitment, we have again recruited a superb set of staff for next year and we look forward to introducing you to them in my September start of term letter.

Year 7 (morning only) and invited Years 12 and 13 (ie if asked to come in) will return to school on **Wednesday 30th August 2017**, with the rest of the school returning on **Thursday 31st August 2017**

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at the usual time/by 8.27am. All of next year's term dates are up on the website for your information. Please note that the usual policies on uniform, behaviour, attendance and punctuality will of course apply from the first day back. Please ensure that uniform meets expectations, e.g. knee length skirts (no shorter) and black leather shoes (no trainers). This will negate the need for any student to start the new school year in isolation whilst the correct uniform is brought in. If you require financial assistance with uniform, please do contact our finance team.

I thank all of you again for all of your support and commitment to the school. I am enormously grateful. I hope that you enjoy a peaceful and happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Alison J Garner
Principal