

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2016

September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

We're now three weeks into the new school year. Thank you for sending your youngsters to school dressed appropriately and with the right attitude towards learning.

We welcomed some new teaching staff this September and all have settled in really well:

Mr Hood	Teacher in Charge of Music
Mr Gabbitass	Humanities/PE teacher
Mrs Cameron	Science Teacher
Mrs Hussain	Science Teacher
Mrs Stanton	Sociology Teacher
Mrs Kaur	Finance Officer
Miss O'Sullivan	Receptionist/Clerical Assistant
Mrs Cawson	D & T Teacher (Maternity Leave)

### Summer Results

Schools are no longer judged by pass rates in key subjects such as English and Maths. Such raw percentage scores masked the reality of how much progress students were really making at their school.

The Government now insists that a school's progress can only be measured by looking at the Key Stage 2 (end of Primary school) results of students and then comparing these with their results at the end of Key Stage 4 (end of Year 11). It can then effectively measure the progress that a student makes. These results are taken from their eight best subjects, but must include both English and Maths.

The national average for all schools is now measured as 0.00.

If a school makes good progress with its students over the 5 years of their secondary education then it will score above 0.00 and be prefixed with a plus sign +. Similarly if it fails to make good progress it will score below 0.00 and be prefixed with a minus sign -.

### At Paget we have recorded a Progress 8 score of +0.08

This is not yet validated until the end of September and we do not yet know where in the top 50% of schools nationally we will be placed. However, this is a huge improvement upon last year's outcome and as you can imagine we are very proud of this performance. We will of course continue to strive for greater success in the coming years.

In terms of GCSE headlines it is perhaps useful to first stress that this group of youngsters was judged 'significantly below' national average levels of attainment as it left primary education.

After a tremendous amount of hard work the group achieved the following at grades A\*-C:

Maths 45%, English 41%, Minimum 2 x Science 55%.

At the forefront of these statistics, we had a number of students with exceptional results:

<b>Names</b>	<b>A*/A Grades</b>
Sam Dempsey	8
Charlotte Jones	8
Lewis Matthews	8
James Ayling	7
Emily Dutoy	7
Charlotte Nash	7
Phoebe Yates	6

It is also impressive that 29% of students got at least one A\* or A grade at GCSE.

Of course we will never allow complacency to affect us and recognise that all students need the opportunity to work towards their own success throughout the year. As a result, Open Study (formerly titled Saturday Club) continues every Saturday between 10am – 12 noon, supporting progress within English, Maths & Science. There are also extra lessons and revision sessions timetabled every week.

Of great significance was the way in which girls again out-performed boys both nationally and locally. We have therefore planned a series of assemblies and challenges which alert our boys to the seriousness of this situation. You can help your boy to be aware, amongst other things, of the following:

- Rewards and success are the result of hard work not 'natural talent'.
- Taking pride in class and homework is not something that only girls do.
- Too many of last year's Year 11 boys are now retaking their GCSEs within the Sixth Form instead of starting Level 3 courses.

Preparation for the Year 11 mock exams in December has already begun and I would urge you to underline to your child that work for success in the summer of 2017 must begin now. Individual revision planner sheets are available to all students in the Library. These enable students to systematically chart and time their own revision.

As for all other year groups, final year exams are in the summer term and students need to recognise that preparation for these cannot begin too early.

### **The Sixth Form**

The Sixth Form is again oversubscribed and we have been forced to turn students away since term began. Our programme is in great demand and we have had to screen out students who are unable to demonstrate the right attitude, work ethic or whose attendance and punctuality is poor.

Our Sixth Form summer results were again very strong and we feel privileged to have been able to support our students through the University Central Admissions Service and help them secure the next step towards their future careers.

Among the outstanding performers within Year 13 there were:

- Emily Finnegan who gained A\*AA and is now at Queen Mary's University London studying Maths.
- Abi Lockwood who achieved BBBB was accepted by the University of Hull to study History. Abi is also a Regional Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust and spent part of the summer on a study visit to Israel.
- Jabraan Talib has left for Sheffield to study Law after gaining a B, C and two Distinction\*
- Adriana Sevcuka gained ABC and is now at London Metropolitan University studying Biomedical Science.
- Georgia Gilholy earned her place at King's College London to study History by obtaining grades of ABBC.
- Sam Bray gained BBC and is studying Environmental Science at the University of York.

We have also had students who have secured prestigious apprenticeships. Sana Moabeen has left us recently to begin an Accountancy Apprenticeship with the NHS.

Our long and successful relationship with the Anne Lee School of Speech and Drama continues. Two students Farid Rahimi and Blane de Haast are to be congratulated on achieving excellent results last year in their Communication Skills exams. These London Trinity Examinations also attracted a high number of UCAS points for Farid and Blane.

This year we are offering our new Sixth Form students the opportunity to purchase a heavily subsidised Google Chromebook. This technology will be used throughout their time with us and can then be taken to university or into the workplace.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

As you will be aware there are a wide range of activities on offer after school for all different ages. These include additional qualifications, educational trips/visits and sporting activities. Your child's Form Tutor has a list of all available. As mentioned above, we also provide an Open Study Group on a Saturday morning for all students.

### **Events over the Summer**

The Maths Faculty took Year 10 students to a Maths Conference in Telford and the Year 12 Business students have toured the Toyota Vehicle Manufacturing Plant at Burnaston.

We installed some fantastic outdoor gym equipment over the summer break following a successful bid for ten thousand pounds from the National Lottery Fund. Students were inducted into the usage of these machines during their first PE lessons and I am delighted to report, are now using the equipment at both break and lunch times.

We also refitted students' toilets in both the Lower and Upper 'Porches' and added further facilities for students with disabilities. We think that the new look facilities are something to take pride in and the feedback from students has endorsed this view.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme went further in securing their bronze awards with a further group of students successfully completing their expedition section. A significant group also went on their Silver Expedition, which is held over three days and pushes young people further still. All were a credit to the school (a big thank you to Mr Ellison and his team). This year's D of E club will be starting soon, and a group of Year 7 and 8 students have already had an introduction to the camping involved during a weekend expedition in July.

## **Forthcoming Events**

- 'Settling In' Evening for parents & carers of students within Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be between 3pm and 5pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Your child will soon be bringing home a letter regarding this event, in order that you may book an appointment with his or her tutor.
- Our Annual Remembrance Ceremony will be held on 11th November 2016.
- Sixth Form Open Evening will be on Thursday 10th November 2016 from 6pm until 8pm.

## **Holidays and Training Days**

We are not allowed to give permission for students to take holidays in term time. Any absence has to be recorded as 'unauthorised' and checked by the Educational Welfare Officer. Fines/penalties will be issued to families that take their child out of school to go on holiday.

If you feel that you do have good reason to take your child out of school, other than for medical/dental/ophthalmic appointments, please put this in writing to your child's Head of Year.

A list of holidays for the new academic year, which includes our training days, can be found at the foot of this newsletter.

## **Paget Community Orchard and Farm**

We continue to take great pride in our orchard and farm. Planned events included the recent 'Apple Day' on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September where record numbers from the community came to help pick the crop and sampled freshly pressed apple juice.

You are welcome to visit from 10.00am – 2.00pm Monday – Friday during term time.

## **Parking**

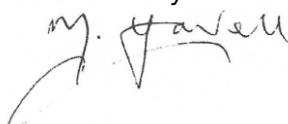
Your continued cooperation in **not** using the school drive to drop students off in the morning or pick students up at the end of the day is much appreciated. It is easier and safer to drop/pick up at the end of the drive.

## **Riding Bikes**

We always encourage students to ride to school on a bike or walk, rather than take the bus. It's much healthier. However, there are occasional reports from some local people that some students are not taking sufficient care on the roads. If your child comes to school on his/her bike then please talk to them about being safe and taking care on the busy roads around the school. Secure individual bike lockers are available at no cost (see Mrs Manek – Business Manager).

It has been a very busy start to the year with record numbers of students wanting to join our school. However, please do not be afraid to contact us if you have any concerns. The first point of contact is the form tutor or Head of Year. Success is the result of hard work by students in partnership with staff and families.

Yours faithfully



Marc Howell  
Headteacher

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 – 17

### Autumn Term 2016

School Opens	Monday Tuesday Monday	05 September 06 September 12 September	Staff Training Day School opens to students Staff Training Day
Half Term	Friday Monday	21 October 31 October	School closes for half term School opens to students
School Closes	Friday	16 December	Christmas Holiday

### Spring Term 2017

School opens	Tuesday Friday	03 January 17 February	School opens to students Staff Training Day
Half Term	Friday Monday	20 February 27 February	School closes for half term School opens
School closes	Friday	07 April	School closes for Easter Holiday

### Summer Term 2017

School opens	Monday	24 April	School opens to students
School closed	Monday	01 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Half Term	Friday Monday	26 May 05 June	School closes for half term School opens to students
School closes	Friday Monday Tuesday	21 July 24 July 25 July	School closes for Summer Holiday Staff Training Day Staff Training Day

### Parents' / Carers' Consultation Evenings

Thursday	12 January 2017	Year 10	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Thursday	19 January 2017	Year 12/13	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	24 January 2017	Year 8	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday	01 February 2017	Year 11	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Thursday	02 March 2017	Year 9	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	14 March 2017	Year 7	1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.