



Sir John Cass's Foundation and Red Coat CofE Secondary School & Sixth Form College

Headteacher: Mr Paul Woods

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Monday 17th July 2017

End of Academic Year 2016/17

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Academic Year 2016/17 has been my first year as head teacher of Sir John Cass Red Coat School. This academic year has been a memorable year full of great change and achievements for all, some of which has been highlighted below.

Key Events

- This September marked the school's 50th Year Anniversary, and we celebrated by inviting former students and teachers back to school for a trip down memory lane.
- We have had the pleasure of receiving and being invited to visits with a number of visits from high profile figures, including Paralympic Gold Medallist, Danny Crates, Olympic Champion Amir Khan, various author visits, MP Nick Gibbs and UK ranked football freestylers. Our students have also had the opportunity to film for BBC's Newsround and The One Show.
- We have embraced various international days such as Science week, Mental Health Awareness and International Women's Day, and we have raised awareness and donations for many causes including World Book Day, The Whitechapel Mission and Green for Grenfell (to name a few).
- We have welcomed exchange visits from schools in the Czech Republic, Italy and Finland, and hope to visit them in their countries soon.
- The Sixth Form Career Ready Programme was successfully re-launched, and students from all years have had many opportunities to participate in trips and events to help raise aspirations for the future.
- The Steel Orchestra was honoured to be asked to play at the Mansion House for the prestigious annual dinner for The Worshipful Company of Gardeners.
- In terms of Sport, students have participated in numerous Borough and National competition, and most successfully, the Key Stage 3 Boys Hockey team won the Tower Hamlets Borough Competition.

It has been a very eventful year for the students, and we hope to continue to update you with key events throughout the next academic year via our parents' weekly e-bulletin and the termly newsletter.

Parent Pay - Cashless Catering

Over recent years, schools across the country have moved to what is referred as a 'cashless' system to manage school meals, trips out of school and all other events that require payment from you, and this year we started the process for our school with a trial taking place from June half term. This trial has been successful and we will continue to adopt this cashless approach from September 2017.

The system is much more efficient for the school in terms of human resources and is also much easier for you to manage. Thanks to this new system, students will no longer need to bring cash with them to school to pay for school meals as parents can log in to the Parent Pay (link accessible from the school website) and top up their child's account.

In the future, we may consider extending it to include the management of borrowing from the library, accessing school printers and monitoring attendance.





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Parent Forum - Coffee Mornings

The feedback received from parents regarding our Coffee Mornings has been very positive. Parents felt that the topics most useful to them were those that covered internet safety, managing teenage behaviour and fitness sessions.

We will continue to host the Parent Forum Coffee Mornings next academic year, with one Parents' Forum evening. Dates for the Parent Forum events next academic year will be updated on the school website once confirmed.

Social Media - Snapchat

We have done much work in school about how to be safe online. There is much to be gained from social media in particular, but it is important for students to behave appropriately, to be safe and to keep communications private. It is also important to be aware of apps that use location services which determine the location of the phone. Recently Snapchat, one of the most popular apps amongst our students, introduced Snap Maps allowing users to see the location of other Snapchat users. There are three possible settings: sharing with no-one (*Ghost Mode*); sharing with select friends (*Chose which friends you share your location with*); and my friends (*Share your location with all your friends*). It is important to check privacy settings if you allow your child to use Snapchat. We would recommend the following:

- Only share your location with people you know in person. Never share your location with strangers.
- Do not add contacts to Snapchat if you do not know them in person.
- Regularly review your settings and take an active decision about whether you want people to know your location. Remember you can switch this off at any time.
- Think about where you 'are sharing your location. Location services such as Snap Maps can lead people to your house. Think about what times you are on the app and whether these are locations you want to share – if not, then turn this off within your settings.

Full details on how to check Snap Map settings can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Key Stage 4 and 5 Examinations

A hearty congratulations to students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 who completed GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations and courses this year.

A Level examinations results are available to pick up from the school from 8.00am on Thursday 17th August 2017, and GCSE examinations results are available to pick up from 8.00am on Thursday 24th August 2017.

Students collecting exam results are reminded to use the Sixth Form entrance.

School Leavers

We would like to wish all students who will be leaving us at the end of Year 13 to pursue a degree or life in work the very best for their exams results and for the future, as we would with Year 11 students who will not be joining us to continue their education in Year 12.

We also have a few long standing teachers who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year; Paul Casey (RE/Christian Chaplain), Vicky Georgiou (Head of Year 9), Nick Howes (Science), Amirul Islam (Science), Annabel Johns (English), Kerry Johns (Social Science), Mariam Mayet (Social Science), Toby Swan (Science/Physics Coordinator), Ken Wallace (PE/Careers) and Rebecca White (Social Science).

These teachers have been valuable members of staff, and it has been a pleasure working with them. We wish them all the best for the future.





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End of Year/ Start of Academic Year Arrangements

A letter was sent home earlier this month outlining the arrangements for the end of year and the start of the new academic year.

This school year will end on Tuesday 18th July 2017. Pupils will follow their normal lessons for periods one and two, and from 11.15am until 11.30am there will be a staggered dismissal.

The new school year will begin with registration day for pupils on Tuesday 5th September 2017. All students should attend school in full uniform at the following times.

11.45 – 12.45 – Year 8 in the Sports Hall

12.45 – 13.45 – Year 9 in the Sports Hall

11.45 – 12.45 - Year 10 in the Great Hall

12.45 – 13.35 – Year 11 in the Great Hall

Following the registration day students will attend school on Wednesday 6th September 2017 with a start time of 8.40am for the new Year 7 students, and 11.00am for all students in Years 8-11.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as part of the school community for your continued support with helping this school and your child to progress, and wish you an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher

