



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

Headteacher: Mr Paul Woods

Stepney Way, London E1 0RH

Telephone : 020 7790 6712

Fax : 020 7790 0499

December 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing to thank you for your support this term. I don't think any of us can quite believe how fast the time has flown. This has been a busy few months and it seems a long time since we welcomed students in September. We have managed to achieve a huge amount both within and beyond the classroom and are looking forward to our Christmas holiday. This break is well earned for Years 11 and 13 who have completed their mock exams.

## **End of term arrangements**

The arrangements for the end of term are that school will close for the Christmas break on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Full attendance is expected in the morning and normal lessons will run during periods 1 and 2. At the end of period 2 pupils will return to their form room for tutorial time. From 11.15am onwards the pupils will be dismissed by their Head of Year. It is anticipated that all pupils will have left the school premises by 11.45am.

Pupils may order a packed lunch from their form tutor; the order should be placed by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December and packed lunches will be collected from the second floor dining hall prior to leaving school on the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The new term starts on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the normal time. This will be Week 1. Please note that Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January is a staff training day.

## **Staff news**

At this time of year, we say farewell to a small number of staff. Our deputy headteacher, Penny Johnson, who has been with us since September 2015 will be leaving. Faeqa Khan from the maths department will be taking up a post in another school and Amar Virk who has worked at Sir John Cass since 1993 will be retiring. We wish all of you the very best for the future and thank you for the magnificent contributions you have made to our school.

## **Chair of Governors**

I would like to highlight that since September we have had a new chair of governors. Angela Hancock has been a member of the governing body for a number of years and has worked in education. Our newsletter contains an item written by Ms Hancock which provides an overview of her work.

## **Prize Giving Evening**

Our annual Prize Giving Evening was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. I would like to thank all of those that assisted in organising the evening and to congratulate those who received prizes. Special thanks go to our Head Girl, Naima Rahim and our Head Boy, Samson Adeola who compered the evening. The keynote address was by Dr Aminul Hoque MBE.

I would particularly like to congratulate the following students who received special prizes:

- The Doreen Perry Literature Prize – Joshua Malaba
- The Year 7 Handwriting Prize – Farhana Khatun
- The Reading Challenge Library Prize – Anisha Begum and Jia Yuan Chen
- The Michelle Sadler Attendance Prize – 8A (Tutor Group)
- The Art Prize – Maliha Mumtaz Zaman
- The Rose Walker Music Prize – Mohammad Ibrahim Bashir
- The Shaquilee Maitland-Smith Sports Award – Mohammad Khalad Miah
- The Headteacher's Award – Raonak Ali

The Sir John Cass's Foundation University Scholarships were also awarded. These went to the following two students with high academic achievement and who have made significant contributions to the life of the school.

- Mohammed Farhadul Islam Nasir (A\*A\*A\*A in Physics, maths, Chemistry and Further maths). He is now studying Mechanical Engineering at Imperial University.
- Muslimah Ahmed (A\*AA in Sociology, Psychology and English Literature). She is now studying Psychology at City University.

### **Black History Month Challenge**

This year Mr Couloute organised a Black History Month Challenge. The results were outstanding, and some have been shared on our social media feeds. Congratulations to the following winners:

- Fela Callahan Year 7
- Nimah El-Kanfoudi Year 7
- Jummah Akter Year 7
- Shahara Begum Year 7
- Christopher Oyekachi Year 7
- Kasandra Danis Year 11

### **Reward System**

From September we have been operating a new reward system. It is pleasing to see how students have been engaging with this and working hard to earn merits.

The tutor groups which have achieved the most merits so far in each year group are as follows:

- 7T      • 11E
- 8A      • 12L
- 9A      • 13A
- 10C

Additionally, students who have achieved Cass Bronze Certificates are:

- Jummah Ria Akter Year 7
- Boudica Callahan Year 7
- Leona Benjamin Year 7
- Nimah El-Kanfoudi Year 7
- Fela Callahan Year 7
- Resma Rahman Year 7
- Khasim Baig Year 7
- Jacqueline Fenner Year 8

Well done to all and I look forward to seeing many more students collecting their rewards in assemblies throughout the year.

### **Careers Information and Guidance**

Careers workshops or, as many of the students prefer to call them, "Smart Days" kicked off earlier this term with a financial skills workshop for the whole of Year 8 run by the Tower Hamlets EBP (Education Business Partnership) and MDI Associates Limited. The aim of these events is to give pupils the chance to meet business people and through various projects they are helped to develop their soft skills and an understanding of the world of work.

Year 10 also attended a workshop delivered by The Transformation Trust (an education charity) and Barclays with a focus on the development of soft skills. Students looked at key development areas such as knowing yourself, overcoming challenges, assertiveness and more.

All year groups benefit from careers information and guidance events across the year and we are most grateful to the many companies that come in to support us in mentoring, running workshops and delivering inspirational speeches to our students.

### **Website updates**

We are working to add more guidance for parents via our school website. Additions to the parents' section this term have been Cass Guides to independent learning and to growth mindset. Also, in response to parental requests, we have recently added a guide to Sir John Cass aimed at parents whose child/children have just joined the school. This covers many aspects of secondary school life and key contact details. Hard copies are also available from reception.

### **Enrichment Activities**

Mr Malique has been working hard this term to promote enrichment activities and clubs within the school. There is a wide range of activities from lessons in Korean to fitness sessions. It is important that all pupils get involved in enrichment activities as this ensures the development of important social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills which are highly valued by employers and universities. To find out more there is a dedicated section of our website which is updated each term to show the clubs and activities that are running. Please encourage your child to participate.

### **Safeguarding – Online Safety**

Much work takes place in school around ensuring that our students are educated about being safe online. You may be aware of recent warnings in the press from CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) regarding social media channels such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat which all allow some form of live streaming services where people can broadcast from their own computer or devices such as an iPad or a mobile phone. This includes the use of popular apps such as Periscope, Omegle, Liveme and Lively. According to reports, sex offenders are increasingly using these live streaming services as an avenue for grooming. Once on these platforms, offenders often use tricks or dares, the offer of online gifts or 'game points' and threats, in an attempt to manipulate young people.

We are aware that many students are keen vloggers and Youtubers and that online broadcasting or live streaming are popular pastimes. However, over the holiday, please take time to discuss online safety with your child, highlight the possible dangers and explain how to stay safe.

For further guidance, please visit the online safety section of our website or go to [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk). Also, if you have a concern, please report this through CEOP at [www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre) or contact the police.

### **Key Events for this term**

All dates can be found on the school website; however below are key events coming up next term. Please check our website and social media feeds for updates on events.

#### **Spring Term**

INSET day	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018
Lessons resume	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Founder's Day	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018
Year 9 Options Evening	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
Last day of Spring Term	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018

#### **SJCR Social Media**

Again, I would like to remind you that the Sir John Cass social media accounts provide regular updates and useful information. These can be found @SJCRschool on Twitter and Facebook. Also, if you have provided us with your email address, we will send you our weekly E-Bulletin for parents.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas, a peaceful and relaxing holiday and a very Happy New Year. Thank you again for your support and I will be writing to you again next term.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods  
**Headteacher**