



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

*We will achieve excellence and inspire generations the Cass Way*

Headteacher: Mr P. Woods

April 2018

Dear parents / guardians,

I would like to welcome everyone back and in particular students in Years 11 and 13 who will be taking their examinations in the coming weeks. Resurrection and rebirth are key themes of the Easter story and are central to the Christian faith and as such the start of a new term provides the opportunity for new resolutions and brings hope for all for growth and personal resurrection. I encourage all students to engage fully in the many opportunities at school to ensure that your full potential is achieved.

I am writing today to highlight four items. This first relates to the importance of school uniform and our expectations of students. The second is in relation to our work on online safety and access to resources which can help you as a parent/carer and the third relates to work to develop our school vision. Finally, I will highlight some safety concerns.

## **Uniform**

Our uniform is a key part of our identity as Sir John Cass Red Coat and we expect a high standard of appearance from all our students. A full list of uniform and equipment rules is in the student planner and on our website, but I would like to draw your attention to two key areas as follows:

### **Trousers / Skirts**

Dark grey tailored trousers must be worn or a navy knee length skirt. Students may not wear trousers that are too tight, that are leggings or in this style. The salwar kameez or the jilbab may be worn. These must be in school navy blue.

### **School Shoes**

Shoes must be black. Canvas shoes or trainers must not be worn except in PE or drama.

During the second half of this term from June until the end of the school year the summer polo shirt may be worn. All other elements of the uniform remain the same. Please be aware that any item worn over the polo shirt must be the school blazer or sweatshirt. All uniform is available at Khalsa Schoolwear, Bethnal Green Road.

## **Digital School – Parental support**

We have been working with students across this academic year on a range of topics relating to safeguarding and online safety. Indeed, next month we will be visited by Lorin Lafave from the Breck Foundation who will be speaking to students. With regard to supporting parents/carers, our school is part of the Parent Zone's Digital Schools Membership programme which provides free access to a valuable source of information on a range of topics. I encourage you to register for free using the following details.

To get started, go to <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>

- Click **ENTER PARENT LOUNGE**
- Click on the pink **ADD TO CART** button
- On the next page click **checkout**. You will then be asked to enter your email address.
- On the next page, you will need to enter the coupon code **DSP16** to ensure you have free access. The code gives you a 100% discount.

Once you have completed the short registration you will receive two emails - one confirming your order and one with log in instructions. After clicking the link in the email press the log in button to set a password, then you will be directed to the Parent Lounge.

Once you have logged in the Parent Lounge will always be accessible at this link:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>

When you enter the Parent Lounge, you will have access to the Parenting in the Digital Age course - a parenting course sharing the latest know-how on keeping children safe online, including how to recognise risky online spaces and how to make the best use of tools and settings. Furthermore, once inside the lounge you will also find details of a dedicated parent helpline which runs from 9.30am – 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. Please note, that if you have any urgent online safety concerns out of these hours you should contact the police or CEOP (*The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command*) – [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

I hope that you will take advantage of this free access to the Parent Zone and that many of you will take their Parenting in the Digital Age course. In addition, we are running a coffee morning session for parents/carers on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30-11am on online safety providing advice on how to engage in your child's digital life.

### **Vision**

Over the past term we have been working to develop a refreshed vision to ensure clarity and direction for Sir John Cass Red Coat School. "*We will achieve excellence and inspire generations the Cass way*" is our vision statement which reinforces our commitment to collegiality and high aspirations. Governors are a key part of this process and will be discussing our work in their June meeting. In addition, students have worked on the development of The Cass Way which highlights the role of students in their own success and that of others as well as the importance of respect, perseverance and consideration for others. You can read about this in the most recent edition of the school newsletter which can be found on the school website [www.sjcr.net](http://www.sjcr.net).

### **Safety**

You will be aware that over recent weeks there has been wide coverage in the media of knife crime in London. As with all headteachers in the Borough, I will be taking advice from all agencies, including the Local Authority. We will continue our work with all students on how to be safe on the streets on the way to and from school as well as during free time. Please reiterate this with your child. If students have any concerns, they must speak to a member of staff or contact should be made with the police.

I will be writing again in the coming weeks and hope to see a number of you at the Year 10 parents' evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. In the meantime, please sign up for our weekly e-bulletin, if you have not done so already, and check our website and social media feeds for regular updates on what is taking place at Sir John Cass Red Coat.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods  
Headteacher