



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

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Students have made an excellent start to our new school term demonstrating an enthusiastic, positive and cooperative attitude to their learning. I am delighted at how smart they look in their new uniform which they are wearing with pride and would like to thank parents for your support in making this happen.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Children who frequently miss school often fall behind and there is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results.

Our school has high levels of attendance; however those students who are failing to reach these high standards will be a focus for us this year.

In the first instance, if your child presents themselves to you as 'unwell' then please send them to school regardless. At school we have a full time medical needs coordinator, Ms Anderson. If they continue to feel unwell Ms Anderson can assess them. We will call you should there be a need for them to go home.

Children sometimes have to miss school because of illness or if they have long term medical issues. If this is the case, parents should contact school the same day to let us know the reason why the child is not in school. Please be familiar with our school processes for reporting absence which can be found on the school website.

Open Evening 2019 for September 2020 places

The time is rapidly approaching for our annual open evening for prospective parents, which takes place on Monday 30th September 2019. We are looking forward to demonstrating all that is wonderful about Sir John Cass Red Coat School and of course the central aspect of this is our students, many of who will be helping to guide tours or will be working in department areas. We have already welcomed large enthusiastic groups to our open mornings with the final event taking place on Tuesday 8th October. To attend please sign up on the school website.

Please note that following our Open Evening there will be a late start for students on Tuesday 1st October of 11am. Reminders will be sent out via text, the school website and the school's social media accounts.

After School Tuition

The programme for after school tuition for students in Key Stage 4 has been published. This can be found on the school website. These sessions provide valuable support for those preparing for examinations and have a clear impact with students who took their GCSEs this summer highlighting the significant difference the tuition makes.

Enrichment

The Enrichment Programme at Sir John Cass Red Coat School offers a wide range of extracurricular activities to all of our students. The importance of activities beyond academic work must not be underestimated. Extracurricular activities complement our students' studies to develop as well-rounded individuals. Indeed, countless studies demonstrate that students who participate in enrichment activities have a marked improvement in their grades. This can be attributed to skills they learn such as better time management to accommodate their hobbies and class activities, better organisational skills and a boost in their self-esteem. Skills learnt in clubs such as debate can be applied in the classroom too, as the students learn how to express themselves better. In addition, students can make new friends with similar interests and can take up activities which are new to them.

Leaflets have been given to students outlining the range of activities and a copy can be found on the school website. Please encourage your child to participate.

Year 7 Settling In Evening

The parents/carers of Year 7 students are invited to the Settling In Evening on Tuesday 8th October. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to find out how your child is settling in at Sir John Cass Red Coat and to meet your child's tutor and co-tutor on an informal basis. There will be presentations on a range of topics of importance.

A letter will go out closer to the date providing details. Please note that the meeting will start at school at 3.30pm promptly in the Great Hall.

Parents' Evenings

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that in signing the home school agreement you committed to attending parents' evenings. Given this, attendance at parents' evening by you is compulsory and I do expect 100% attendance at these events from families.

Key Events for this Academic Year

All dates can be found on the school website, however below is a reminder of the main events this term. Please check our website and social media feeds for regular updates.

Autumn Term

Open Evening	Monday 30th September
Late start (<i>11am start for students</i>)	Tuesday 1st October
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 21st Oct – Friday 25th October
Sixth Form Open Evening	Tuesday 12th November
Late start (<i>11am start for students</i>)	Wednesday 13th November
Year 13 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 27th November
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 11th December
Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 20th December

I will be writing again in the coming weeks and hope to see a number of you at the Year 7 Settling In Evening on Tuesday 8th October. In the meantime, please check our website and social media feeds for updates on what is taking place at Sir John Cass Red Coat.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher