



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

13th January 2020

Dear parents and carers,

The New Year has begun with great positivity at Sir John Cass Red Coat and we thank parents for ensuring that students have returned to school well equipped, in correct uniform, refreshed and ready to learn. 2020 promises much for Sir John Cass Red Coat students and as we throw ourselves back into school life and embrace our vision: "We will achieve excellence and inspire generations the Cass Way", we can expect excellent progress and great achievements. As usual, we have a busy 6-week half term and a number of key events in our school calendar fast approaching.

Attendance

At Sir John Cass Red Coat excellent attendance and punctuality is our aim for every student. Full attendance maximises learning opportunities and you have a vital role in promoting good attitudes towards attendance. We ask for support from you to ensure that students are present at every opportunity, to arrive on time, to avoid allowing children to stay at home unnecessarily and to avoid taking them out of school without authorisation. Evidence shows that students who attend school regularly make better progress both academically and socially. Persistent absence occurs when a student's attendance falls below 90%. This is a serious problem as much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these students at a considerable disadvantage.

We monitor students' attendance closely and will follow up unexplained absence with parents/carers by telephone, by letter and sometimes by visits home. Where a student's attendance record reaches a concerning level, we will contact you to discuss ways in which we can support you and your child.

Good attendance is celebrated each week and students are invited to participate in rewards events. Form tutors share individual attendance with students on a regular basis and certificates are given to students through assemblies as well as annual rewards for students who achieve outstanding attendance.

Our attendance target is for full attendance for each student. Every lesson counts and it is this commitment to learning that will have a positive effect on students' examinations and their futures.

Enrichment Activities

Last term we saw an increased number of students in school getting involved in extra-curricular activities. These have ranged from musical performances, sporting events, visiting author workshops, poetry recitals, theatre productions and trips within London and beyond our shores. Indeed, before Easter we will have a group of students visit the north of Spain, our annual Founder's Day event, theatre performances and much more. We want all students to be involved in such activities as the benefits in terms of the social, cultural and academic skills developed are key in a child's development.

The programme for the coming term is now available. 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.

Parent View App

We are launching the Parent View App for all parents. This will enable the school to communicate and engage with both parents and students more effectively. As we develop the app, parents will be able to view attendance data, behaviour, homework reminders, school reports and information about extra-curricular activities more easily via a smart phone, table or PC.

You will receive a tailored email and password to set up your parent view app. For full details, please visit the news section of the school website from where you will be directed to a step-by-step guide on how to set on the app.

If you have any questions or require support in setting up your Parent View account, please contact Mr Tamjid Hussain (tamjid.hussain@sjcr.net).

Sixth Form applications

The deadline for applications to our Sixth Form is Friday 24th January. Following this date, interviews and various sessions will take place including presentations from Cambridge University, taster days and more. For full details on the courses offered as well as entry requirements, please visit the Sixth Form section of the website. If you have any questions, the Sixth Form team can be contacted via email at sixthform-info@sjcr.net.

Key Events for this term

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

Spring Term

Year 9 examinations	From Monday 20th January 2020
Year 13 examinations	From Monday 27th January 2020
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12th February 2020
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2020
Founder's Day	Thursday 27th February 2020
Year 9 Options' Evening	Tuesday 10th March 2020
Year 7 examinations	From Monday 23rd March 2020
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1st April 2020
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 3rd April 2020

I would like to thank you for your support and I will be writing again in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher