



21st November 2017

Dear parents,

The production is always one of the highlights of the school year and the "School of Rock" has featured highly in school over the last few weeks. I watched the performance on the Saturday evening and it was a wonderful show. The quality of all aspects of the production was testament to the dedication of both staff and pupils. They have rehearsed the show and created the set taking many hours at lunchtimes, after-school and weekends. Shows such as this only happen as a result of great commitment, and this has been recognised and appreciated in comments on the night and in subsequent emails.

Exam results for June 2017

We have been delighted again with the results achieved in both A-levels and GCSEs this summer for students of all abilities, published nationally recently.

We continue to encourage pupils to take a **broad range of subjects at GCSE**. This is measured by the % of pupils taking the 'EBacc' – which requires taking **all 5 EBacc subject areas** including Sciences, Languages and Humanities alongside Maths and English. This year we had **80%** of students entered for EBacc compared with just **35%** of pupils in secondary schools across the country.

Our GCSE results were very healthy once again.

- We were delighted to see that **42%** achieved grades A* to C in **every one of the 5 EBacc** subject areas compared to **28%** in Surrey and **22%** nationally
- **59%** gained grades 9-5 (equivalent to A*-B) in both English **and** Maths compared with **39%** nationally
- And on average, pupils right across the ability range achieved a **third of a grade higher** in **English** and **Maths** than similar pupils nationally

Similarly, the **A-level results** showed the strength and popularity of our 6th Form provision. This year we had **136** pupils taking A-levels in **28** subjects.

On average **they achieved a quarter of a grade higher** than equivalent students across the country – right across the ability range.

Exam Results Day in August 2018

Some parents have asked when the GCSE and A-Level results are handed out to pupils in order to avoid a holiday booking clash. The A-Level results are on 16th August 2018 and the GCSE results are on 23rd August 2018.

Into the 6th

Applications for 6th Form were due in by Monday 13th November. We have had a high level of interest both from students at this school and those at other schools. Details about the application process can be found on the website at <http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/08-6thForm/02-joining-the-6thForm/joining-the-6thForm.shtml>. If you have not yet handed your



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form in, then please do so as soon as possible so that we can begin the process of interviewing all Year 11 pupils.

Feedback from parents

We always welcome feedback from parents as it enables us to improve what is on offer and to deal with any potential concerns. We had almost 100 returned questionnaires from the recent Year 7 Parent / Tutor Evening showing an exceptionally high level of satisfaction with the overall experience of their child. 99% of those expressing an opinion agreed with all the following statements:

- "My child feels safe at school"
- "My child has found the transition from Primary to Secondary School a pleasant experience"
- "My child is encouraged to take part in lessons."
- "My child is expected to do their best"
- "My child is supported by the school"
- "My child is enjoying their first term and feels happy at The Ashcombe School"

Careers Talks

The Careers talks are continuing. The ones on medicine and finance were extremely well attended. Jo Carroll, our careers adviser, will be focusing this month on the financial sector, and next month on the legal sector. The talk on Law will take place on Tuesday 12th December from 1:25 - 1.45pm in S5 and any year group is welcome to attend.

A presentation relating to the theme of finance can be found on the careers website and pupils will have a chance to go through this in registration.

Sporting Update

The new hockey club has made a great start to the season with the Year 7 girls' team winning 5-1 at St Teresa's. The football season is going well with Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form teams playing in both the county cup and English Schools cup. Netball is continuing to flourish with Year 7 fielding four teams in one week!

Music Instrumental Lessons

We encourage as many pupils as possible to take individual or group instrumental or singing lessons. Please use the following link <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage-culture-and-recreation/surrey-arts/music/music-lessons-for-children> to find further details and arrange for lessons with Surrey Arts who organise lessons at The Ashcombe School. The link is also available on the school website. For some pupils who meet eligibility criteria, lessons may be at a reduced cost or free (subject to availability). For other enquires regarding instrumental lessons please do contact the music department.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year. The theme this year is 'All Different, All Equal'. We supported the week in school through assemblies and activities in tutor times. Friday 17th November was mufti with the theme of 'Odd Socks'. Pupils should have brought in the normal £1 donation to their tutor. A percentage of the money made will go to Children in Need. Parents can pay for mufti for the whole year through parent pay for a cost of £5. We have 5 mufti days throughout the year with the money going to the school's main charities: Royal

Marsden, a Romanian project for former street children and Build Africa. There will be a Christmas themed mufti day on the last day of this term.

Text books and footballs

We would welcome the return of any school text books you have found at home which are no longer needed. A number of parents have also donated revision guides that they privately purchased for children. These are incredibly useful. If you have any books, then please send them into the office. We are also aware that pupils may have taken home the distinctive white and orange footballs we issue to pupils to play football at break and lunch. If you have any at home, then do please send them in to Pupil Services.

Competition for Year 8 and 9

The NHS is running a competition for year 8 and 9 pupils to create a job advert for a position in the NHS. Pupils can work by themselves or in groups of up to 4 and need to submit the entry to Miss Jackson in R10 by Friday 12th January. Details of the competition can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM0JpcCrIbw#action=share>

Christmas Carol Service

The annual Christmas Carol Service will take place at St Paul's Church on Monday 4th December at 7.30pm. It is a lovely occasion and starts the school's festive celebrations. All parents are welcome to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at the Carol Service or one of the other forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Blow
Headteacher