



September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to report a very positive start to the new year at Wood Green School. The Year 7 students are settling in very well and look excellent in their new uniform. All students have come back with a good attitude to their work, and many visitors at our Open Evening this week commented on the good atmosphere and excellent students.

### **Results**

I am delighted to report very successful examination results at Wood Green. GCSE results increased here; whereas they fell across the country. Our A Level students were also successful, with over 95% getting the outcomes they needed to gain their places at university or on apprenticeships. Well done to all our students and their families. More detail about our results is clearly signed on our website.

### **Uniform**

As well as the year 7s, many older students have chosen to change to the new uniform and are taking pride in wearing it. I have received several compliments from people in the town about how great our students look. We obviously need to ensure that this standard remains and we thank parents for their support and cooperation when issues occur. We are also aware of issues that some people have experienced with the supplier SWi and we are working with them to make improvements. We will keep a careful watch of the progress.

### **New Students and Staff**

We are delighted to welcome more new students to Wood Green this year than ever before, some coming from other countries and some more locally. This is a great opportunity for our students to meet new people and we ask that they help our new students to settle in.

I am also pleased to welcome the following new staff to Wood Green this year. They are:

Mr Skinner	Head of RE
Mr Dashwood	Lead teacher for Design and Technology
Mr Woodhead	Teacher of Science (Physics )
Miss Colin	Teacher of Science (Biology)
Dr Howard	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss Henderson Slater	Teacher of English
Miss Nicoll	Teacher of English
Mrs Whittaker	Teacher of English (Lead for Year 7 English)
Mrs Breakspear	Teacher of Languages
Miss Milner	Head of History
Mr Read	Teacher of PE
Miss Kelly	Main Receptionist
Mr Lunt	Design and Technology Technician
Miss Evans	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Woodhead	Teaching Assistant

### **School Health Nurse**

We have a new School Health Nurse this term, AnneMarie Garay. She has already started working with students and our Pastoral team to ensure that students are safe and well.

## Site Development

Over the summer, the refurbishment of N-Block has been completed. We are also very grateful to Nuffield Health, who have donated over £50000 of fitness equipment as part of our partnership. Students will use these machines in their PE lessons and Mr Austin will ensure that they are available at certain times outside of school time too for students and staff.

## Toilets

One of the biggest issue for the students is our toilets, and I am aware too that parents have been anxious about this. Despite the efforts of site staff, a small group of students have in the past treated our toilets very poorly. Last summer for example, a toilet was mended and within an hour a small number of students had repeated the damage. This has made them unpleasant for others to use. I have said before that I am determined to solve this as it is a basic need for students. All toilets have been repaired over the summer so we start the year in a good condition. CCTV cameras have also been put in to monitor the corridors by all our toilets and we have employed an additional member of cleaning staff who will inspect the toilets regularly during the day. All issues will be reported and dealt with, and we will then identify anyone responsible for any problems. I have made clear to students what I think about this mindless damage and encouraged them to report any problems that they know about. Mr Austin will follow this up in assemblies beginning on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Students should now have a better experience in school.

## Solar Panels

200 solar panels have been installed on our Sports Hall roof by the Low Carbon Hub. This will benefit the school and be a good educational tool to help students to learn about energy.

## Oxford University Trip

39 Year 11 and 12 students visited Brasenose College, Oxford today, hosted by the Admissions Tutor, Dr Simon Smith. The purpose of the visit is to encourage students to think about future pathways and their aspirations. We are also in the process of setting up a scheme in which the undergraduates at Brasenose mentor our students applying to Oxbridge and other universities in order to pass on advice and give a real account of life at University.

## Our Values

We have launched our school 'LEARN Well' values, which we believe are so important to developing our school and students:

- Learning
- Effort
- Aspiration
- Respect
- Nurture
- Wellbeing



We will promote these in everything we do, including our new House Points system and our classroom behaviour code.

Mr R Shadbolt, Headteacher.