LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

4th September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope that you and your family have had a relaxing summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our current students and families, and to extend a very warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. I hope your time with us will be rewarding and positive.

We begin the Autumn Term with 122 pupils in School House, 68 day pupils and 54 boarders. Our aim is to help all of these students to settle into life, both in the House and in School, as quickly as possible, so that they can enjoy their learning and also the range of activities we have on offer after school finishes at 4.15pm. If you have any concerns with how your son or daughter is coping in these early days please do email your child's Tutor in the first instance, so we can see how we can help. It is also good to hear if all is going well, so do let us know if this is the case as well!

There have been only a few changes to the Tutor team this year with Mair Mayers joining from Grove. Mair joins Mark Smith and Caroline Semeyn to tutor the Year 9s, whilst Pablo Gorostidi Perez and Peter Scoggins take care of the Year 10s. Saima Shabir and Jonathan Porter-Hughes will tutor the Year 11s. A four strong Tutor team of Mark Wood, Jon Clarke, Adel Kiss and Matthew Dawes continue their great work with the Sixth Form and Sarah Elliot continues her fantastic work as Matron in the House. Myles Nash is now concentrating his efforts as Director of Boarding and I have now taken on the role as Housemaster of School House following seven years as Housemaster in Grove.

The Upper Sixth will soon be thinking about university choices and hoping to secure offers or making plans for gap years. We will be supporting them to reflect carefully on the past year, reviewing their academic progress and ensuring that they set the tone for a productive and focussed year.

The Lower Sixth will embark upon new courses having made subject choices aligned to their future career plans and interests. It is important that they start strongly, and I would urge them to speak with the Upper Sixth to understand the differences between the GCSE and an A Level or IB programme. It will be a testing year for them, and we will watch their grades and tracking data carefully.

The Year 11s will experience an increase in workload and academic pressure. It will not be long before they start to think about life in the Sixth Form and subject choices. Competition for Sixth Form places at Leighton Park is strong; that interview process will start after Christmas with offers being made subsequently.

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For all our students, it is important that the communication triangle of student-parent-tutor functions well and allows our relationships to flourish. I hope that over the year, both you and your child will develop a close relationship with your child's Tutor and the House team. Do please let us know of any successes, achievements, issues or concerns that develop either inside or outside of School. These are key to ensuring that we know our tutees and are able to support them in whatever way we can.

I would like to draw your attention to the Leighton Park Dress Code, details of which are on the School website and in the Gold Book. I would ask that members of School House adhere to these guidelines. I hope that you will support us in ensuring that our students look smart and presentable at all times.

I look forward to seeing the mix of old and new students as they enter School House on Thursday 5th September and to harness the energy of all students to make School both a vibrant and happy place to be.

I am contactable on email at GrahamSmith@leightonpark.com, on the House mobile 07475 078 371 or on the duty phone 0118 987 9578.

Do come in and say hello from time to time and I look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

In friendship

Graham Smith
Housemaster, School House