

The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3AG

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@DevizesSchool



**Devizes School
& Sixth Form College**

Raising aspirations, building futures

20th September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to a new academic year. There has been much to celebrate recently, it is therefore timely to update you and also look ahead to the new term.

Exam results this summer: In Sixth Form, students achieved another strong performance in A-Levels and Applied Courses. At GCSE level there was a record-breaking performance with 69% of students achieving passes in subjects including English and Maths. This is a 15% improvement on recent years and the highest ever achieved by the school. The progress of students was also at its highest and is recognised as being significantly positive.

How were these results achieved?

Students worked hard and they benefitted from the strong behaviour system that aims to create disruption free classrooms. They made the most of all the extra opportunity that we provided. We really focused on making teaching and learning as effective as possible, constantly seeking to improve. The majority of these students joined our sixth form which now has over 200 students. The collaboration with Lavington School is over a year old and formally recognized by the DfE and is adding value to both schools. We have also become more popular in KS3 with a new Year 7 group of 210 students.

Looking Ahead

The challenge for us is to sustain the growth and improvement consistently over the coming years. This means getting the basics right and supporting our students to be at their best.

Uniform

Thank you to the vast majority of parents that have ensured uniform is correct. Students look smart and are wearing their uniform with pride. Dealing with incorrect uniform wastes valuable learning and leadership time. It is essential we get it right. The particular issue for us at present is a small number of students wearing trainer type shoes which are not acceptable. If this applies to your son or daughter please ensure that this is sorted quickly.

We are looking at a number of initiatives for keeping our young people safe and healthy. We are involved in lots of work around supporting young people's mental health and we are becoming a lead school; we had a performing arts event this week to support this initiative. We are actively encouraging and supporting students to talk about their mental health and are promoting better lifestyles. We are also working alongside other Wiltshire Schools with the local Police delivering assemblies and workshops on keeping young people safe, be it online or in the local community. It is very important that students act as good ambassadors for the school in the way they act in our community, particularly travelling to and from school.

Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust



Again, in line with all other schools and in line with our own Health and Safety policies we will be practising fire evacuations and a lockdown procedure. This is so we are all prepared in the extremely unlikely event of an emergency. The practice will take place on Monday next week.

The White Horse Federation as well as continuing to improve all of our policies and practices have invested even more capital spend this summer in upgrading our gas and electrical systems and we are on phase two of our extensive roofing project (there are a lot of roofs at Devizes School!)

Important dates for this term include our Open Evening from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday 26th September for new students and parents wishing to join us in September 2020.

Friday, 27th September is a Staff Development Day where we are focusing on improving Teaching and Learning, Understanding ASD and Mental Health. **Please note the school will be closed to students on this day.**

Saturday 12th October is the school's 50th Birthday celebrations, a free event to all. A great chance to see old school memorabilia, tour the school and meet old friends. Looking ahead we are excited about the environmental initiatives that are happening in school involving our very active climate change group.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support, it is very important to us. As always please remember to visit our website and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all our news and extra-curricular activity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'P Bevan', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Mr P Bevan
Principal

