



St Philip Howard Catholic High School

Specialist Humanities School

September 2017

Dear Parent and Carers

Welcome to another school year! We are already at the end of the second week - doesn't time fly when you are having fun?

A particularly warm welcome to all those who are new to the SPH family; those who have joined us from other schools into the Sixth Form, new students in Year 7 (including St Teresa's, our additional tutor group), others joining other year groups, new staff and, of course, all our new parents. It is great to have you on board. 'Community' is important to us and each and everyone here counts and makes a difference.

We've had another set of excellent exam results; our best ever at GCSE and again some stunning performances at A Level with students heading off to University and the world of work - hopefully all the better for having spent their formative years at SPH. They go with our thoughts and prayers. We are very excited about the year ahead, which will no doubt bring further adventure and success. Some particular highlights will include the building of our new school chapel, our work as a sponsor academy within the Bosco Catholic Education Trust and our leadership of a new teaching school alliance, which we were successful in bidding for. More information on all these areas will be forthcoming over the year. The most important thing though is to keep getting the basics right and ensure that your children are receiving an outstanding education from all of us.

With that in mind, I just wanted to remind you of some of our key ambitions which I know you share with us. Our aim is to ensure that your children get a better education at SPH than they could receive anywhere else. In practice, this means three key things:

1. Achieving outstanding results, making exceptional progress from their starting points, opening doors and opportunities beyond SPH.
2. Participating in a rich and diverse extra-curricular programme, helping to leave our children well-rounded and ready for the wider world.
3. Engaging in their own faith and the faith life of the school in a very real and practical way. We talk about living out our faith and bearing witness to the Gospel message, helping us all to become the people God called us to be.

Whilst these are lofty ambitions, we need to continue to set our sights high. We've made excellent progress, however our work on these things is never done. We were graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2016, have had progress measures consistently placing us in the Top 10% of schools nationally, have been recognised as a centre of excellence as both a sponsor academy and now a teaching school and are still heavily over-subscribed receiving over 450 applications for our 180 places. However, there is always room for improvement and we are always open to hearing both the things that you think we are doing well and the areas that you'd like us to address and develop. You are welcome to make an appointment to come and see us, or contact us directly by email. Alternatively on the first Wednesday of every month we hold an open door from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, when no appointment is necessary to see me or one of the leadership team.

To help us meet our aims, could I just remind you of a few of our basic standards - the children know them by rote now!

Attendance

We all aim for 100%. We have a school welfare officer who is here every day. So unless your child is really unwell and can't physically get out of bed, they should be in school. We'll look after them! This does also mean no holidays in term time. No exceptions I'm afraid.

Uniform

Our children dress impeccably and it makes such a difference. Girls choosing to wear skirts must all now have the pleated one from our uniform suppliers and it should go to the knee. Boys should be wearing proper school trousers (crease down the middle) - nothing too skinny or jean/casual like material. No hoodies under blazers before school, proper leather shoes and black socks / tights.

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Headteacher: David Carter



Jewellery and Make-up

Just one piercing is allowed in each ear lobe and then a silver or gold stud. That's it! No bracelets, necklaces (except a small crucifix on a chain), braids in hair or bangles. Smart watches must not be connected to phones whilst in school.

Haircuts and Colour

Natural hair colours please, no streaks or extreme styles. Nothing shorter than grade 2 on back and sides but this should be blended into longer hair on top.

Mobiles

No mobiles on in school at all, from the gate in the morning to the gate in the afternoon. If you or your children need to make contact, we use the reception phones or your child can ask permission to use their phones. We confiscate phones until the end of the week if they go off or are out (a rare occurrence these days). We don't make exceptions on this.

Parking

If your children are lucky enough to get a lift to and from school, please use the car park behind the Co-Op in Barnham. You'll find space to park and wait, be able to get out without hassle and avoid clogging up the narrow roads around school. You mustn't drive onto the school site (unless you've asked permission to do so) due to the movement of children, or use the private car park next to the school. We get some very irate and angry neighbours when you do. Parents represent the school too, so please be mindful of this.

Homework

We are having a real push on trying to help our children become more capable and independent. If they are telling you they don't have any homework, that should be a concern to you and it is important you let us know. Either they aren't writing it down, they are rushing it or we haven't set enough! We are introducing an online homework system which you will be able to monitor more closely.

Most children (and adults) work better away from distraction and we'd like to help if we can. Homework Club is available in Inclusion for those children who need assistance with their work (please contact Mrs Norris on wnorris@sphcs.co.uk to arrange) but for the majority they just need a quiet space. This year we are going to run 'Prep' two nights a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) in Rm 42. This is voluntary although a register will be taken for those whose parents have signed up or where Heads of Year have directed children to attend due to missed homework. We plan to run this from next week 3.15pm - 4.15pm, so please contact your child's Head of Year to book a place on either or both nights. It could save you hours of cajoling at home!

Year 7: Mrs Schaeffer - sschaeffer@sphcs.co.uk

Year 11: Miss Duckers - rduckers@sphcs.co.uk

Year 8: Mr Kinal - pkinal@sphcs.co.uk

Year 12: Mrs Hlynianski - jhlynianski@sphcs.co.uk

Year 9: Mrs Purdy - epurdy@sphcs.co.uk

Year 13: Miss Morgan - mmorgan@sphcs.co.uk

Year 10: Mr van Hoek - evanhoek@sphcs.co.uk

Just a reminder Mr Collyer is Head of Middle School (Year 8 and 9) and Mr Hogan, Head of Sixth Form. We welcome Mr Clarke, seconded to SPH as Deputy Headteacher, working alongside Mr O'Brien. Mr Clarke comes from Salesian School in Chertsey, a large and outstanding Catholic school in the diocese. One of his many roles will be to work with Mr van Hoek and Miss Duckers in the Upper School, so you may well meet him if your child is in Year 10 or Year 11. We are delighted to welcome Mr Clarke, who will give us greater capacity and expertise at SPH along with all of our new recruits!

This welcome letter has definitely gone on a bit now! We're really excited about the year ahead and I just want to thank you in advance for your continued support, prayers and commitment to the school community. I really couldn't ask for better school parents - you are wonderful!

Hope you had a great summer holiday (they are definitely behind us now given the stormy weather!) and here's to a fabulous year ahead.

God Bless



David Carter
Headteacher