



8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents and Students

I write regarding some developments and improvements to our communications and learning systems which will be coming online after the Easter break. We have reviewed survey feedback and evaluated the effectiveness and cost of our current virtual learning environment, FROG. It has been decided that we will move away from using FROG towards some new, easier to use, more cost effective and up to date software, in particular with regards to communicating and monitoring homework.

Our new homework portal is called 'Show My Homework'. Pupils and staff will be trained in its usage over the next few weeks; parents will receive guidance on how to log in and monitor homework too. This new system is much easier to use and navigate than FROG. More information can be found on their website <https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/>

In regards to parental communication we are expanding our provision of SchoolComms. Currently we use SchoolComms to communicate message to parents and send reports home electronically. We are expanding the usage to include attendance, timetable, behaviour and achievement points which historically have been viewable using FROG. Parents will also be able to communicate absence information for their children directly using the app. We are also looking into electronic rewards postcards and certificates. I would urge all parents to download the SchoolComms app called SchoolGateway so that you can view this information. Please see their website <http://schoolcomms.com/> for further information.

As with all new software systems there are likely to be some hiccups when we transfer over and I would ask for your patience and support in the first weeks of the Summer term.

Teaching staff have been transferring files stored on FROG into new storage areas where they will be accessible to students and parents. We have also reviewed our new website to provide a better facility for downloading documentation. The teaching innovation group has been working on expanding the use of Google classroom and we continue to use other digital learning platforms such as MyMaths, MathWatch, SAM Learning, ExamPro, Kerboodle, Active Learn, Quizlet, OED online, LinguaScope and Tutor2u.

The transfer to ParentPay for catering payments has been completed and we have received some very positive feedback from parents. Feedback from students and staff on the main canteen refurbishment and our new caterers is also very positive. Our new sixth form café has opened, providing drinks and snacks to our sixth form students and staff throughout the day.

Our roofing and boiler replacement works, funded by two successful CIF bids, are now complete and the site is being restored. We have applied to CIF for perimeter fencing along the Wargrave field and the entire frontage of the school site, together with electronic gates, to make our site more secure and to better safeguard our students. We will be informed as to the success of the bid at the start of the Summer term.



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Lastly can I thank all parents for their understanding and support in having to close the school last week. It is never a decision taken lightly. The generator has now been removed and service is back to normal.

Yours faithfully

D J Gray

Headteacher