

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016

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Dear Parents/Carers

I really hope you all had a good summer break, and that your children are ready for the new academic year ahead. I know the staff and myself are really looking forward to welcoming our students back. A particular warm welcome to our new Year 7 students, and to all of our new students in any year group joining the academy. We hope you will be very happy with us. As usual we have a staggered start to the beginning of term as follows:

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7** (to start at 8.20 am)  
**Sixth form** (Year 12 to start at 9.00am and Years 13/14 at 10.00am)

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September – all year groups** to be in - students should be on site from 8.20am ready to start lessons at 8.30am.

### Exam results 2016

I am very pleased to tell you that the exam results at GCSE and A level were the best the academy has achieved since its opening, and are a testament to the hard work and effort of all our Year 11 and sixth form students last year, and of course to you the parents and carers who supported your children throughout the year.

The staff are very proud of the positive attitude and high aspiration that these students displayed as they worked tirelessly with determination and dedication, week after week, including during holiday periods, to ensure they were ready to succeed at their exams in the summer. Congratulations to all our students.

Once again the number of students going on to University has increased with 47 students gaining places at Universities located all over the country. We wish them well in their future careers.

### Parent / Carer Consultation evenings and other year group events 2016/17

Please find below a number of dates for your diary. All parent / carer consultation evenings run from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. Students are welcome to attend with their parents/carers. We do have an appointment system, but if your child comes home and says they cannot get an appointment, please give us a call and we will do our utmost to find a slot for you or arrange a phone call to you regarding your child's progress in a subject.

#### Year 7

- 21<sup>st</sup> September – information evening starts at 5.30pm followed by a Higher Attainer parent/carers meeting at 6.30pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> October – parent/carers with Personal Tutors – time to be confirmed
- 25<sup>th</sup> May – Parent / Carer Consultation evening 4pm – 7pm

### **Year 8**

- 8<sup>th</sup> December- Parent / Carer Consultation evening 4.00pm – 7pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Year 8 Mini Graduation – times to be confirmed

### **Year 9**

- 4<sup>th</sup> October –Curriculum Information Evening at 6pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February Parent / Carer Consultation evening at 4.00pm – 7pm

### **Year 10**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 - Parent / Carer Consultation evening 4.00pm – 7pm

### **Year 11**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Year 11 target group evening – 5pm – 7pm (you will receive a letter if this involves your child)
- 17<sup>th</sup> November - Parent / Carer Consultation evening 4.00pm – 7pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> April - Parent / Carer Consultation evening with the Sixth Form 4.00pm – 7pm

### **Years 12/13/14 – the Sixth form**

- 5<sup>th</sup> January - Parent / Carer Consultation evening 4.00pm – 7pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> April - Parent / Carer Consultation evening with Year 11- 4.00-7pm

### **Exam weeks**

Four times a year the academy has formal exam weeks for years 7, 8, 9 and 10, and mock exam fortnights for Year 11 and for the sixth form. These exams are extremely important, as they provide key assessment information to help teachers plan the next steps for your child's learning, and for students to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. They also help prepare students for the public exams that they will all eventually do.

Please remember at GCSE there are hardly any subjects that still have course work – student's success rests on doing well in the exam itself. This is why we need to give them continual practise at sitting exams under formal conditions. Please have a look at the dates for the exams weeks below, and support your child do get down to revision a couple of weeks before the exam or on a continual basis. Most exams test not only what the student has studied in the last weeks leading up to the exam but also test previous knowledge, skills and understanding acquired.

The provisional dates set for exam weeks are:

### **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10**

17<sup>th</sup> October – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

30<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

26<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### **Years 11 and the sixth form (Years 12,13 and 14)**

Mock exams – 28<sup>th</sup> November to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Mock exams – 6<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

If there are any changes to these schedules, then we will let you know in the next two weeks.

### **Other dates for your diary**

- 15<sup>th</sup> September Associates Meeting - please contact Jo Price for further information to attend this event - starts at 5.30pm. The associates are parents/carers who want to be more involved with the academy and contribute ideas, review academy activity and raise and distribute funds for our students.

- 20<sup>th</sup> September Year 9/10/12 Duke of Edinburgh Information evening for parents and students wishing to take the Bronze and Silver Award - starts at 5.30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> September Year 7 Information Evening - starts at 5.30pm and HA Information Evening - starts at 6.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> October Phase One (Years 7 and 8) Onesie Film Night - starts at 4.30pm

Parents/carers will be informed by email for all events.

### **Edmodo**

As you know we use a virtual platform called Edmodo on to which staff load all their lessons, homework and learning resources that we use in our teaching. Parents/Carers have access to this. You will receive further information in the week ahead as to how you can access your child's lessons and support them with their learning.

### **Attendance**

Excellent levels of attendance and punctuality to school are key factors in ensuring your child reaches their maximum learning potential. The overwhelming majority of our students attend well and are regularly on time.

However, there are a small number of students who regularly arrive late, without good reason, and this is unacceptable. From the beginning of the Autumn term those students who are late without an authorised reason will receive a same day sanction. These sanctions will range from a short fifteen minute detention, to a parent/carer meeting, and potentially if persistently late, time in our Internal Exclusion centre.

### **Uniform**

The uniform policy at Brompton Academy is rigorously followed and students should adhere to our strict uniform code at all times. We make no apologies for insisting on high standards at all times. We know that a very small minority of parents/carers do not like our stance on uniform but by sending your child to Brompton Academy you are agreeing to our policies. We have been really clear through our inductions to the academy what our standards are and we therefore expect compliance to that.

One of the main issues that comes up is style of haircut. We do not accept students with inappropriate haircuts – this includes shaved sides with large mops of hair on top, coloured and contrasting hair colours, shaved heads, mullets, dip dyed hair colours, extreme colours e.g. pink, red, purple, green etc. Please note all haircuts need to be a minimum of grade 2 and no shorter. In addition as a reminder no makeup whatsoever is allowed and no jewellery.

We will send students home for flouting uniform rules. Please check the uniform list on our website if you are unsure what is acceptable and what is not.

### **Multi Academy Trust proposal**

At the end of term, you were sent a consultation document from the Chair of Governors, with our proposal to change from a single academy trust (SAT) to a multi academy trust (MAT), allowing Chatham Grammar School for Girls to join. If you have any views regarding this, please do write to the Chair of Governors at Brompton Academy. We will send you the results of the consultation at the beginning of October.

## **Term Dates for students and Staff Development Days 2016-2017**

Term One	7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> September (depending on Year group) – 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
Term Two	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 – 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Term Three	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Term Four	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017
Term Five	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 – 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2009 (*1st May Bank holiday)
Term Six	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017 – 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017

There are five staff training days this academic year. These staff training days will be on the following days- students are not required to come to school.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

A fifth day is still to be determined.

In addition, in preparation for our New Entrants Open Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the academy will close at 12.00pm for students. Those in receipt of a free school meal will have a packed lunch to take with them. However, many students (most of Year 7 and 8), will be asked to attend the evening. More information about this will be sent to you in due course. The academy will also be holding an Open morning on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October and again some students may be asked to attend.

## **General Information**

### **Changes to the National Achievement league tables**

School Achievement tables are published every January showing the performance of all schools in England. These have traditionally shown the % of students making expected progress between Year 7 and Year 11 in English and Maths, and the % of students achieving 5+ A\*- C including English and Maths, with a floor target of 40% that all schools should achieve (regardless of their type).

It has been realised that the 5+A\*-C including English and Maths measure is of little use since it presents absolutely no challenge to grammar ( selective) schools where you would expect almost 100% of students to attain at least 5+A\*-C grades, but presents significant challenge for non-selective schools. In other words, it is unfair to measure selective school performance alongside non selective school performance in the same league table. It is far better to measure, in all schools, the progress students make, from their individual starting point in Year 7, to when they finish their GCSEs in Year 11. The starting point is measured from the result they achieved at the end of primary school.

When the school performance table is published in January 2017 parents/carers will see new information. Each secondary schools will have four main pieces of performance data published. These are:

- Attainment 8 – the best 8 grades that a student achieves, out of all the GCSEs they took, are added together to come up with a point score. Each grade is worth so many points – so for example a C grade is worth 40 points, a B grade 46 points, an A grade 52 points, an A\* 58 points etc.

The 8 grades counted must include English and Maths plus three GCSEs from the followings academic subjects – Science subjects, a Modern Language, Geography or History, plus 3 other GCSEs or equivalent vocational qualifications, that are on an approved government list of qualifications.

The students point score for English and Maths GCSEs are double weighted which means if a student got a score of 40 points (C grade) for say Maths GCSE this would be worth 80 points. The scores for these 8 GCSEs are then added up and divided by 10 (because English and Maths GCSE count twice) to give that student an individual best 8 average grade. Once all students individual best 8 average grade is worked out, they are then all added together and that number is divided by the number of students in the year group to give the school or academy an average overall grade achieved.

- Progress 8 grade – progress 8 is worked out the same as Attainment 8 above BUT when an individual student gets their average best 8 grade, the academy has to look at their starting point – that is what grades did the student come to us with from primary school. We then have to use national data to compare our individual student's performance with other students across the country who also had the same starting point. The question is did our student do better than other students who started with the same grade profile from primary school, or did they do worse in their best 8 GCSEs. If they did better, then the academy has 'added value' and the student has made good progress. Each school will get a score – getting a zero (0) means the students got the grades they should have – par performance. A score of more than zero means the students have made more than expected progress. A minus score – less than zero – means that students have made less progress than they should have. An Ofsted could be triggered if a school gets less than -0.5 (minus 0.5).
- % students achieving an A\*- C grade in both English and Maths combined (called the Basics measure)
- % of students achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBACC), which is the achievement of:
  - an A\*-C grade in English and Maths
  - A\*-C grades in any 3 of the following subjects the Sciences, Geography, History, a Modern Foreign Language or Computer Science.
  - The achievement of 3 other GCSEs or equivalent qualifications at A\*-C grade.

Please note that many schools and academies do not offer the EBACC to all students within their options programme, or deem it desirable for all students. At Brompton the majority of the younger year groups are following an EBACC curriculum.

I hope you will find this information helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the staff or myself if you have anything that you would like to discuss.  
With best wishes for a successful year ahead

Judy Rider  
Principal