



## parents' *newsletter*

July 2016

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### Message from the Principal Designate, Richard Spencer

I wrote to you last week to introduce myself to you all as your new Principal and you should all now have learned the house and tutor that your child will be in next year. We are very excited about the opportunities this new system presents, and confident that smaller groups and a sharper focus on effective mentoring will help deliver rapid improvements. The students have responded positively, and we are looking forward to seeing the new houses and tutor groups in action from September.

There will be a number of changes through the new academic year, and I thank you in advance for your support with the implementation of them. A few of the immediate differences that your children will see in September and through the new term are outlined below. My expectation is that, beyond the house structure and improvements to the environment, a more consistent and effective classroom experience will be quickly in evidence. In addition, we are working on plans to shape the extra-curricular and enrichment offer to allow students to secure their PLEDGES (Participation, Leadership, Excellence, Diversity, Giving, Environmental and Service) both in and out of lessons. More on this in the new term.

Please note that we are in the process of updating our website. Some new content is already on the front page, and there is a link to the 'old' website which features the 'Parents' information section that many of you will be familiar with. All information on there should be treated as 'current'.

We published guidance around uniform for September in the last newsletter, and have reproduced that again here. Expectations for 2016/17 remain largely the same apart from the need for students to wear a white collared shirt (long or short sleeves are acceptable) and the house tie.

Ten things I hope that you and the students will be excited about for 2016/17:

- We are delighted to be going into September fully staffed, with a number of new teachers joining us in areas such as mathematics, and a new Head of Music and RE.
- Our house system will deliver smaller, vertical (all years) tutor groups, and provide parents with more immediate points of contact and communication. It will also 'zone' the school into four distinct areas, with their own identity and character. House leaders will be able to ensure that behaviour and progress is monitored and supported closely.
- The new tutor groups will enable much closer academic mentoring to be undertaken, as well as improving the contact between yourself and your child's tutor. Regular one to one discussions will help ensure that students are supported and challenged.
- We are working to improve the learning environment. A number of areas will be redecorated over the summer and autumn terms, with new student toilets being installed in the Bedford block.
- Students will enjoy access to some improved outdoor areas. The 'scrub' outside the dining hall will be paved and landscaped, providing a pleasant new space. Other areas will be partitioned to ease the flow around the site.
- The Bedford block (housing English and mathematics) will be refurbished over the summer and autumn. New windows and carpets will be installed, and classrooms refreshed and improved. Other areas will also be refreshed through the year.
- New accommodation for Drama and Modern Languages means that we can close the Needhams tower block at Christmas, an area of the school that is currently a particularly uninspiring learning environment.
- From September, our catering will be run by Pabulum Catering, a company with a great track record of delivering exciting, nutritious menus in our CMAT schools. They will also be installing a new outdoor catering 'pod' to improve the speed of service at busy times and provide more choice. You can learn more at: [www.pabulum-catering.co.uk](http://www.pabulum-catering.co.uk)

We are working closely with local schools and partners on an exciting new chapter for our sixth form provision. Plans will be launched fully in the autumn term, but we are excited at the prospect of building on existing strengths to widen the curriculum and attract an increasing number of students from across East Cambridgeshire. Watch this space!

Ely College is joining a cluster of local schools with shared values and a successful track record. Already students and staff are making valuable connections between our CMAT family of schools that will be of benefit and help drive improvements. There is a tremendous 'buzz' around the College and the community. With your help and support we know that we can deliver a truly great school.

On behalf of CMAT, I'd like to thank all departing colleagues for their service to the College. I'd particularly like to thank Evelyn Forde for her kindness and assistance over the last couple of months, and for her work to secure improvements for the school.

I'm looking forward greatly to meeting more of you in the new academic year. I know that our parents and the wider community provide Ely College with great support and want to see this new chapter succeed. Please be assured that I take the responsibility of being your Principal very seriously and am committed to doing my best to ensure that all of our students thrive and are happy. I wish all of you a very happy, restful and safe summer break.

*"Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine."*

Alan Turing

## Uniform Expectations

We recognise that to change the uniform entirely in September would have placed a burden on families and would not have given us the time to properly consult on different views. We will therefore be consulting through 2016/17 with a view to a full uniform change in September 2017.

We will, however, be making a slight change in September 2016. To mark the move to a House system in the College, and to immediately smarten students' appearance, we have provided every student with a tie in their House colour. We will expect these to be worn over a collared white shirt, underneath the existing V-neck sweaters, from September.

From September 2016:

- There are no changes to current uniform regulations regarding trousers and shoes.
- There are no changes to current PE kit and uniform regulations.
- Students will be expected to wear a white collared shirt (short or long sleeves) instead of the current polo shirts.
- All students will be expected to wear a House tie. Students will be provided with one free, machine-washable, tie. Help with how to tie a tie will be provided to anyone who needs it.
- Year 7 and 8 students will be expected to wear the existing grey sweaters.
- Year 9 students will be permitted to wear either the existing grey or navy blue sweaters.
- Year 10 and 11 students will be expected to wear the existing navy blue sweaters.

Our advice to parents is to purchase the existing school sweaters as normal (on the understanding that they may not be uniform in September 2017), but not to purchase any new polo shirts for September. White collared shirts are readily and cheaply available from most supermarkets or online retailers.

Arrangements for the purchase of uniform from school remain the same. Details can be found on the website, or you can contact reception with any questions. Guidance and images around acceptable styles of trouser, skirts and skirt lengths can also be viewed on the website.

## Message from Ms Forde

As we approach the end of another school year, I have been reflecting on my time here at Ely College as Principal. When I was appointed and took up the post in April 2015, understandably the atmosphere was one of sadness and disbelief as the school entered special measures. Since then I firmly believe we have come a very long way on the road to improvement. The atmosphere is now incredibly positive and with a change in sponsors to CMAT, Ely's future is secure.

The support I have received has been overwhelming from staff, parents, students and the wider community. I have met some wonderful people along the way and have many happy memories to treasure. Your children are a real credit to Ely College and will help take Ely from strength to strength – I have no doubt about that. As I walk around the school, I now see a real sense of pride in the children; they are eager to please, keen to engage and all students understand the importance of behaviour for learning.

I will keep a keen eye of Ely's progress and look forward to seeing Year 11 and 13 celebrate their exam successes this summer. The staff here worked tremendously hard to ensure students get the results they deserve.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Ely, it has been a privilege to get to meet many of you and work with your children. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, for challenging me and for taking an interest in your child's education. I sincerely wish everyone at Ely College the very best for the future.

## Contact Us

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## Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA)

Thirteen Y9 students attended the Higher Education Field Academy archaeological dig recently and worked tirelessly on the two dig days. They then had a great time on the third day at the University of Cambridge. Students have the summer to write their technical reports which will complete the course and culminate in a certificate and some serious kudos on their UCAS applications. The students were working at undergraduate level and did an amazing job. Huge credit to them!

## Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open in the holidays on the following dates:

**Tuesday 30 August**  
12.00pm – 3.00pm

**Wednesday 31 August - Friday 2 September**—10.00am – 3.00pm

**Monday 5 September**  
8.00am -12.00 pm

## Community Education

Congratulations to the Community Education team who were rated Good by Ofsted at their recent inspection. The full report is on the Ofsted website.

## Diary Dates

### Summer Term

Last day—22nd July 2016

### Autumn Term

5th September—20th December

### School Photographs

Thursday 8th September

## Work Experience and Work Shadowing

The Y10 students took part in one weeks' work experience from 27 June until 1 July. This was a very successful year and the students performed outstandingly well. They were a credit to themselves and the College. Students found that they had skills they did not realise they had and employers were pleasantly surprised by the students and their willingness to learn and participate within their companies. Some students were offered part-time positions and even apprenticeships at the end of the work experience week.

Many staff also took time to visit the students within their placements and the employers they spoke to were all very positive—some said that we couldn't have them back and that they were the best they had ever had! To date, we have received 23 nominations for Certificates of Distinction which will be handed out in the end of term assembly.

Y8 students were given the opportunity to take part in work-shadowing a parent, relative or close friend to give them an insight to the "world of work". 127 students took part and benefited immensely from this by learning new skills and putting into practice skills they already have. Those students in school did not miss out; they had interactive sessions within the PSHE lessons about working life.

## Sporting Achievements

Y7 boys played in the Inter-County Cricket Championships at Clare College in Cambridge where they got through the group stages along with Linton. They played the semi-finals in a very competitive match against Comberton, narrowly winning by 3 runs. The final was between Ely and Linton with Ely dominating the game from the start and winning the championship by 58 runs. Well done to the whole team!

Well done to the following girls who successfully umpired the Sainsburys School Games Level 3 Hockey at St Ives on 30th June: Katherine Causton, Grace Goodjohn, Daisy Harrison, Molly Lloyd-Houghton, Hannah Meek, Rebecca Poultney and Eleanor Rankine.

Well done to the Y8 Rounders team who competed in the Sainsburys School Games Level 3 Competition on 30th June.

Well done to the Y9 Leaders, Tabby Butler and Caitlin Hammitt, who did an excellent job leading the East Cambridgeshire Games on 10th June.

Well done to the Y8 & 9 sports leaders who have been out visiting primary schools this term leading their School Games Days and Sports Days.

## Goodbye and Good Luck

At the end of term we say a fond farewell to the following staff and wish them luck for the future:

Mrs W Barnes	Admin Team	Mrs S Marsden	Learning Support
Mrs C Biggs	PE	Miss J Otto	Modern Languages
Mrs A Creswick	Maths	Mrs F Powell	Modern Languages
Mrs V Eggleton	Admin Team	Mrs J Pruce	Admin Team
Mrs S Foxall	Behaviour Team	Mr M Serrao	Senior Leadership
Mrs C Green	LRC	Mrs L Thompson	Admin Team
Mrs K Hopkinson	Admin Team	Mrs C Thorpe	Learning Support
Mr T London	Music	Mr D Whales	Senior Leadership
		Mr S Wilkinson	RE