Dear Parent/Carer

Support our School

I am writing to thank all those who positively engaged in our Support our Schools activities. We have now been visited by some local councillors who are seeking to support the school in this matter. We had a very successful SOS day with six classrooms receiving facelifts in only six hours. It was a remarkable achievement and could not have been done without positive engagement of the Holcombe community.

In addition, we have had several offers of workplace opportunities and potential school visits by parents across a range of professions and careers and again I would like to thank those parents for providing these opportunities for the students here at CGSB.

New House System

As you know, the students have been engaged in the nature of the school House system; as was previously explained, the school had to move from six to four Houses as we are only a four-form entry school and are only able to support four form groups in most of the school. The students were asked whether they wanted to keep the current Houses and lose two by lottery or move to new Houses. The student body put forward five high quality alternatives for students to choose between if they voted to move to new House names.

Voting took place on Friday 6th December and students did vote to move to new House names. The new Houses that students have decided upon are still based on ships constructed at the Chatham Dockyard; however, they cleverly incorporated the acronym CGSB. The new House names here at CGSB will be: Conquest, Guardian, Shannon and Barfleur

Students will be arranged in their new Houses over the next couple of weeks and the form groups for Years 9 and 10 will move from six forms to four to reflect the new House structure. Year 11, 12 and 13 forms will remain as they are to provide continuity for these students in exam groups.

The first new House competitions will start in the last week of term with inter-house sports competitions, Tug of War and a Christmas and House Quiz. In addition, all Houses will be asked to suggest mottos and mission statements that will encapsulate the vision and themes of their Houses going forward.

We were very pleased about the positive way in which students engaged in this process and I think the School Captain summed up most people’s thoughts when he came to me with the results and said: ‘the school has chosen well’.

If students move House and require a change of House colour, the school is looking at providing replacement badges for the school blazer in the New Year.
Timetable

The new timetable for January is almost complete and we are confident that students will receive their January timetables in the last week of term so that they know what lessons they are coming back to in the New Year. Parents of students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have received letters regarding ‘setting’ for Maths and Science as well as a few changes in English. This has been done to support students and allow teachers to focus on a narrow ability range in their classes and, therefore, provide the most appropriate support and challenge for those students. Students should also know their sets by the end of term.

I am also pleased to report that almost all students will continue with their current teacher for the subjects they are taking.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Gardner
Principal