Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to keep you informed of some of the developments here at Chatham Grammar School for Boys since the start of term. I have had the pleasure of meeting many students both individually and in groups and it has been very useful to gain their perspective on their school and how it can be improved. As I shared with students in their assemblies this week I have seen lots of positive things for us to build on including the polite, articulate, intelligent, aspirational students and the hardworking open minded teachers.

We do, however, have areas that require attention and we have already started addressing these issues. Please find below an outline of some of the actions that are have already been put in place or will be happening in the very near future along with an explanation of why these changes have been made:

**Action taken or about to be taken:**

- Teachers are engaging with weekly professional development and incorporating new teaching methods in the classroom so that students make the best possible progress in lessons.
- We have introduced an assessment stamp to ensure students receive quality feedback on their written work and know how to improve.
- We have introduced new assessments for sixth form to support AS results – including pre-seen papers – so that students are best prepared for all their examinations next summer.
- We have improved queuing at the canteen for break and lunch time so that students can access the canteen quickly and with a minimum of fuss.
- We are trialing designated seating for break-time in the hall as students felt this would make seating more efficient.
- We are in the process of repainting parts of the school as some areas needed immediate attention.
- We are giving the Sixth Form Centre a much needed renovation as the facilities were not appropriate for a modern sixth form.
- We are researching honors boards to celebrate the fantastic achievements of students past and present so that students efforts and successes are recognized and provide inspiration for others to strive for.
- We are tracking Controlled Assessment grades to ensure the students have the best platform to be successful going into their final exams.
- We are looking at where departments are based and will move the English department together so that teachers can support each other effectively to deliver the best quality learning.
- We have opened all computer rooms at lunch time for students to access so that they can complete work or research.
- We will be consulting with all stakeholders, including parents, on changes to the school day – lesson length and length of school day.
I will be seeing students from across the school again in the coming weeks to gain their feedback on the changes that have taken place and their impressions of their school since the start of September. However, I have had the opportunity to speak to some individual students, the School Captains and some members of staff regarding their impressions of how the school is moving forward and they have articulated the following:

Differences / What Went Well:

- People seem to be taking school much more seriously.
- Work is being marked more quickly and students are receiving more useful feedback.
- Lessons seem to be more planned and have a greater emphasis on achieving tasks within certain time limits.
- Rules are being applied in a more consistent and regular fashion.
- There are a lot less phones around the school.
- The Sixth Form Centre being given a face lift is welcome.
- The mentor system is working much better.
- A lot more sixth formers are working in M20 (the sixth form study area) than was the case previously.
- The seating plans have been beneficial in larger classes.
- Student pride in their uniform and appearance is much better.
- There is much less litter around the school.

Even Better If:

- There is an issue of computer access in the morning for printing off work.
- The library needs to be stricter as a quiet / silent work place.
- Some students are not always working hard enough on tasks when given a certain time limit.
- The sixth form would like a plan for how the common room will look once completed.

Ideas / action:

- We are going to look at opening a computer room in the morning for students to print off work they need that day.
- We will look at computer room usage and consider a sixth form only computer room for lunch time.
- We are going to set an internal UCAS deadline for students to ensure that they have the best chance of getting a good university offer.
- We will get a plan of how the sixth form common room will look once completed.

I would also like to thank the many parents who are joining us for Open Evening this week as well as those who have volunteered to help around the school in the coming weeks with specific projects.

Yours sincerely

S. Gardner
Mr S Gardner
Interim Principal