Dear Parent/Carer

As many of you will be aware, the school received its first full Monitoring Visit from Ofsted on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, since being put into Special Measures. This was a Section 8 Inspection and involved three Inspectors on Day 1 and two Inspectors on Day 2. During a Section 8 Inspection the Lead Inspector must make a judgement about whether or not the school is making appropriate progress towards coming out of Special Measures. I am pleased to report that this was a positive visit by Ofsted but cannot comment further at this time. A full letter from the Lead Inspector will be available on the Ofsted website within 15 working days and we will put this on the school website as soon as it is available.

The new School Captains Team has been appointed following a rigorous selection process. I am pleased to announce that the following have been appointed to the School Captains Team for the next academic year: Jamie Attaway; Laura Black, Jamie Gillen, Louise Harrison, William Johnson and George King. I would like to congratulate all students who applied as the field was very strong and a final decision was hard to make. We will be appointing further prefects before Easter.

I am pleased to report that Year 10 students took their Unit 2 Finance exam a few weeks ago and 80% of students achieved the equivalent of a A*/A grade in this Unit. Well done to all those students and to the Business Studies team.

This is the first term of the new House structure and the House points at this stage are as follows:

Barfleur 3731; Conquest 4175; Guardian 3683; Shannon 3267

Therefore, Conquest won the House Points total in this term and have been invited to their first House Night on Wednesday 26th February to celebrate their success. Well done!

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Holcombe Association meeting owing to our Ofsted visit and this will now take place on Thursday 6th March; the next Parent Forum will be on Thursday 27th March.

Following the success of our last SOS event, we will be holding a similar event on Saturday 15th March. I will be writing to parents in the first week back after half term to provide the whole school community with the opportunity to work with us to provide the best learning environment we can for our students here at Chatham Grammar School for Boys.

Following discussion at the Parent Forum, some Year 9 and 10 students have started staying behind after school to complete their homework with the support of their peers and teachers using the Exceed model that the school has used in the past. I am pleased to announce that we will be rolling this opportunity out to all year groups next term.
We will be starting our first Exceed night on Tuesday 25th February for all year groups from 3.30pm to 5pm and the Exceed night will run every Tuesday thereafter. We will be looking to then increase the number of evenings that this facility is available to students with the ambition that in the next academic year many students will be participating in the Exceed homework support programme several nights a week. Students staying behind to take part in the Exceed programme can bring additional food for the end of the school day and we are looking to run a Tuck Shop facility for these students as well during this time.

Yours sincerely

S. Gardner

Mr S Gardner
Principal