Dear Parents/Carers

13th February 2015

We are nearly at half term and we have had another busy and successful few weeks since the Christmas break.

**Chatham Town Football Academy:**

The school and Chatham Town FC launched their partnership a few weeks ago. Budding young footballers will now benefit from the opportunity to compete at the highest standard in the local area, in the Youth Conference League, whilst studying for a Level 3 Diploma in Sport. To celebrate this new partnership nearly 50 students and 20 parents braved the cold on Saturday 31st January to support Chatham Town to a 1-0 victory. My thanks to everyone who came along and supported.

**Academic progress:**

Students continue to work hard to ensure they fulfil their academic potential. Year 10 took internal examinations and their behaviour and attitude to the examinations was excellent. Year 11 have almost completed all their controlled assessment, 54% of which is at an A/A* standard – well done.

In addition, Year 13 students have completed their UCAS applications and many students have received fantastic, and in some cases unconditional, offers for university places. I hope that with their goal in sight this gives Year 13 that final spur, if they needed any, to ensure they fulfil their potential this summer.

**Sixth Form Open Evening:**

I would like to thank all those students in the sixth form who helped make this evening such a huge success. We have received almost 150 external applications to join the sixth form in September 2015.

**House competition:**

Congratulations to Shannon House for winning last term’s competition. It was fantastic to see so many students from so many year groups coming to celebrate at their House and Pizza night. I should also mention that Shannon House have also raised £500 for the local food bank – well done!

**School visits:**

The school continues to engage in a wide range of school visits. We had the very popular trip to the German markets at the end of last term; several students had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz recently; a number of students headed to Bude on a PE trip. Future trips include a theatre trip for GCSE English students to see Romeo and Juliet; Year 8 will be taking part in a week-long camping trip in June (places still available!); Year
10 Geography Field trip to Wales in April; Year 9 visit to the National Portrait Gallery in April; Year 7 and 8 visits to the Courtauld Institute in June; trip to Berlin for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 in May.

School Badges and Ties:

It has been great to see the new tie in place for Year 7. Anyone requiring a new tie will purchase the new design. These ties are available through the school office.

I am sorry to report that although the uniform company did deliver the new blazer badges for students, unfortunately, the colour was wrong and so they have had to be sent back to be remade.

School Captains:

The applications for the School’s Captain’s team were extremely strong this year and I am delighted to announce the following appointments:

- Reuben Reid-Williams: School Captain
- Callum Barrett: Vice Captain and Head Prefect
- Kyle Bloomfield: Vice Captain and Head Prefect
- Anna Roche: Vice Captain – Academic Initiatives
- Fergus Allan: Vice Captain – Sports Development
- Emilio Neita: Vice Captain – Inter House
- Conor Noon: Vice Captain – Events Management

The Holcombe Association:

My thanks for the ongoing work and support of the Holcombe Association. Through their fundraising we have been able to purchase new table tennis tables which are permanently up in the new gym and have just ordered a dart board and peripherals for use on the House nights at the request of students.

Individual success:

As well as the success of our students in school, many are competing in a variety of activities at the highest level. Congratulations to the following:

- Chris Hyde, Year 11: enjoying a successful Cyclocross season, finishing 2nd in the London X League; a member of Wigmore Cycling Club
- Michael Rowlands, Year 12: a top performing skier within Europe with competitions scheduled throughout January through to March
- Josephus van Vilsteren, Year 10: currently ranked 1st in the country for the England U16s tour in ten-pin bowling
Peter Buravytskiy, Year 9: member of Gillingham Jumpers Trampoline Club; represents Great Britain on a regular basis in trampolining;

Richard Carr, Year 10: British National Champion for U15 Boys 2014 in Modern Tetrathlon

Joshua McIlheron, Year 7: in his second full season as a signed player for Crystal Palace U12 Academy Team; played in Stockholm, Brussels and Madrid

My thanks for your on-going support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

S. Gardner

Mr S Gardner
Principal