



## Aspire & Achieve Together

Holcombe, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6JB | [www.holcombegrammar.org.uk](http://www.holcombegrammar.org.uk)

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**Principal:** Mrs J. Diaz BSc (Hons) NPQH

Dear parent/carer,

31<sup>st</sup> October 2017

Welcome back to school following the half term break.

It has been a positive start to the term with the new year 7 students looking very smart in their newly designed Holcombe uniforms. They, along with other students, were fantastic ambassadors for the school at the recent Open Day; a very popular event attended by over 300 families. We also enjoyed a successful senior awards evening on 19<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our upper school students.

We are immensely proud of our students' achievements in the summer examinations. Their results led to Holcombe Grammar being recognised as the third highest ranked school in Medway this year. On the new progress measure, Holcombe achieved a score of +0.49 which means that students, on average, achieved half a grade higher than their expected targets. This is an impressive achievement and is testament to the hard work of both students and teachers, as well as the continued support of parents, carers and governors.

In the sporting world, the school is celebrating the impressive achievements of multiple students, featuring medal victories, national call-ups, and international championships. Josephus Van Viltsteren recently competed in the Masters bowling tournament and has been selected for the Junior Team England squad. Peter Buravitskiy has been chosen to form part of the trampoline team that will represent Great Britain at the World Age Group Competitions taking place in Sofia, Bulgaria this month. Braden Cox and brothers Nathan and Ethan Johnston won gold as part of the synchro group at the National Trampoline League, and have subsequently qualified for the League Final event at the Velodrome, Olympic Park in December. Nathan and Ethan continued to shine at the English Championships last month, winning bronze in the boys 13-14 year-old group Synchro, in what was the regional team final.

As we look to the term ahead, we wanted to notify you of a change in leadership at Holcombe Grammar School from January 2018. It is with a degree of sadness that the Principal, Ms Diaz, has decided to leave the school this Christmas, news that we shared with staff today. Ms Diaz has been instrumental to the recent successes of the school and was an integral part of the leadership team moving the school from special measures to good. Under Ms Diaz's leadership, the school has recently been recognised in the league tables as one of the top schools in Kent and Medway for progress.

This term, Ms Diaz will continue to lead the school as Principal and will be supported by Mr Bassan, Trust Director of Secondary Education, to ensure a smooth handover is managed. Mr Bassan, former Principal of The Rochester Grammar School, is well placed to lead the school from January onwards to ensure it sustains its successes for each of its students. He is very much looking forward to meeting you at future events.

We wish Ms Diaz all the best for the future and offer her our thanks for the impact that she has had on so many pupils in her time working at the school.

Finally, as a reminder, this term we have the following events taking place on the calendar:

28<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> form open evening (6-9pm)

30<sup>th</sup> November – year 13 parents' consultation evening (4.30-7.30pm)

14<sup>th</sup> December – year 9 parents' consultation evening (4.30-7.30pm)

19<sup>th</sup> December – Carol service at St. Stephen's church (6-7pm)

We look forward to a successful term ahead and continuing our valued home-school partnership throughout the academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gardner  
CEO



Ms Diaz  
Principal



Mr Bassan  
Trust Director of Secondary Education