



8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Ref JB/In

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been a great pleasure to begin my role as Headteacher at Wollaston School and I would like to thank staff, students and parents for the warm welcome that they have shown me during the first week.

It promises to be an exciting academic year ahead and I am very much looking forward to working with the entire school community to achieve great things together. We truly have a school to be proud of and placing a high value on the work that we do here has been one of the themes of my first assembly with students.

### **Examination results 2017**

Congratulations are certainly due for another year of excellent examination results at Wollaston. Parents may be aware that the 2017 GCSE exam results included new 9 -1 gradings for English and Mathematics. Despite national volatility, Wollaston students achieved outcomes which were significantly above National averages. There were also commendable successes right across the full breadth of the curriculum, and a number of individuals who achieved truly exceptional academic results in a range of subjects. Further details can be found on our website.

Our Sixth Form results were also hugely impressive with the percentage of entries achieving an A\*-C grade rising to almost 80%. BTEC students also enjoyed a successful year with over half of all grades awarded a Distinction or Distinction\* - a truly impressive achievement.

Again, there is an enormous amount to be proud of and further details of individual and subject performance can be found on the school website. I would like to congratulate all of the students concerned for their considerable successes and thank Mr Cowell, the entire staff and parents who supported our students to such impressive achievements.

### **Practical information 2017-18**

**Uniform** - Thank you to parents and carers who have ensured that their children have arrived in school in immaculate uniform and so well-equipped to begin the new academic year. The Wollaston uniform deserves to be worn with pride and I thank you all for your support in setting such a high standard. Heads of Year will contact parents directly in the case of any issues, and they are always available to assist with any queries or uncertainty when making purchasing decisions.

**Catering Provision** - Mr Wayne Taylor, our School Business Manager, will write to parents today regarding some exciting changes to our catering provision. We are pleased to announce that our kitchen and dining is now provided 'in-house' and that all staff who were originally employed by Cucina, are now members of staff at Wollaston School.

Initial feedback has been incredibly positive, and the numbers of students using this facility is already up on the previous year. As part of our improvements to the quality of catering provision, we are also now opening a newly refurbished classroom (LA5) to students who bring a packed lunch. This will allow us to provide additional space for students to enjoy their meals.

### **Celebrating success at Wollaston**

I would like to extend huge congratulations to one of our Year 11 students, Maisie Summers- Newton, who has achieved incredible success over the summer holidays. Maisie won a gold medal in the British Championships, beating the European record for the SB6 100m breaststroke, just falling short of the world record by 0.04 seconds!

Maisie is currently top of this year's world rankings and her next challenge is the World Para-Swimming Championships in Mexico City. Congratulations to Maisie for all of her hard work and dedication and I know that the whole school community will be supporting her in all of her competitions.

We also have a member of staff, Mrs Lisa Boggis, Assistant Headteacher, who is competing at the World Rowing Masters Regatta in Slovenia this weekend. We wish Miss Boggis the very best of luck and hope that the hours of summer training payoff in a great result!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Birkett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'B'.

**Mr James Birkett**  
**Headteacher**