

12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear students and parents (2A)

In this autumn newsletter, my first termly update of the new academic year, our usual anticipation of the start of teaching is understandably tempered by sadness at the loss of our sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Nonetheless, it is important for all our community that we maintain continuity with our college activities during this period of national mourning. I would like therefore to share some information about key upcoming college activities but also look further ahead at our strategy for the future and how this will be changing the college estate and the student experience.

### **College closure for the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

On Saturday, for the first time in history, we had the privilege of witnessing the accession ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III. Following royal guidance, our Union Flag was returned to full mast for one day from the accession ceremony. It has been announced that the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September and that this will be a bank holiday. I would like therefore to confirm that Collyer's will be completely closed on that date. No work will be expected of any students to allow all to pay their respects.

### **Results, enrolment and start of teaching**

Today we were delighted to welcome on site all of our students after the summer break and have our whole college community together for the start of teaching. Collyer's continues to grow and develop each year and has such a great sense of community. Results in the summer were outstanding again, our best ever with 71% high grades (A\*-B) at A Level and similarly strong results across all other course types. Following a very smooth and well-organised enrolment of new students the college has expanded even more, cementing its reputation as one of the leading sixth form colleges in the country and the top state provider of A Levels across the whole of West Sussex. We are all really looking forward to the new term and I encourage students to make the most of the opportunities on offer, both within and outside of the classroom.

### **Communications with students and parents**

Regular updates are sent out at specific times of year via email by senior managers and hosted on the [Parents / Carers](#) section of the website. As a sixth form college our students are independent learners and readying themselves for universities, apprenticeships and the world of work, so many regular communications are sent directly to students only via our weekly bulletin, tutorial emails, tutorial sessions and SharePoint. Finally, students can access information about their studies on MyProgress and parents can access similar information via MyStudent.

### **Support for progression**

This term the main focus of tutorial time will be on progression after college – be it to university, apprenticeships, further study or the world of work. This summer, 90% of students progressed onto their first-choice university, so you can rest assured that our staff provide expert guidance to all our students. Students will also be using the [Unifrog](#) platform to research options for courses and university, a widely adopted and individually tailored guide to help make informed choices about future study as well as investigating career paths. We also have a wealth of useful [Progression Guidance](#) available online.

## **Car park, no smoking policy, safety on site and absence**

Last year we replaced most of our perimeter fence and installed new vehicular barriers. These changes have made our campus even safer as well as significantly improving the look of the Hurst Road and Richmond Road boundaries. It is no longer possible for families or friends to drop off students by car inside the campus and we would be grateful if drop offs could be done a little distance from the main entrances for safety reasons and to avoid congestion. Only visitors who are going to Reception may enter the car park and Reception staff will give instructions for leaving via the exit gate which is kept closed at all times during the college day. Students wishing to park on site will need to apply for a permit at a cost of £174 per year. There are only a limited number of spaces available. Details of the criteria applied are outlined in Travel Assistance Guide in the [Student Finance](#) section of the college website.

Collyer's is a no smoking campus. In our Code of Conduct it clearly states that students should not smoke in the college (including e-cigarettes) or elsewhere on the campus, or at its entrances. This also applies to the local roads and residential areas as we work to promote good relations with our neighbours. In the interests of safeguarding, students will also be expected to display their ID card and lanyard at college.

## **Longer-term plans**

Collyer's continues to grow each year and to ensure we have enough space for all the students who want to study here, we have an ambitious masterplan for the estate that will add additional teaching, study, social and catering spaces over the next 10 years leading up to our quincentenary in 2032. At the heart of the plan is also a firm commitment to green spaces, sustainable construction and preserving the heritage and feeling of the campus. Currently our building projects include the Shelley building, a new state-of-the-art 10-classroom teaching block that will open after Easter 2023, and a large new high-street style café that will open in November 2022. The Café will not only add extra social and catering space but will also serve as home for the RCU (student union) as well as being a pop-up art exhibition and performance space. Due to the slight delay in opening, we have arranged for an interim café to be based just in front of the library, with prices subsidised by the college. Offering top quality drinks and pastries, this additional outlet gives more options for students whilst onsite.

## **Shelley building**





## Café under construction



## Interim café



We are all very much looking forward to the next few years at Collyer's, and I look forward to providing more information in future updates.

*D. P. Lodge*

Dan Lodge  
Principal