

Tuesday 27th August 2019

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to the new school year, especially to those families joining The London Oratory School for the first time. Whether your association with the School has been a long one, or whether you are new to the School, you are most welcome. I know that you will be joining a warm, supportive and flourishing community, and that you will feel part of the furniture in no time at all!

Suffice it to say, I very much hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and that you will be returning to the School refreshed, renewed and raring to go. September invariably brings with it the wonderful sense of 'newness' that comes with the start of a new school year: new faces, new uniforms, new commitments, new aspirations and new resolutions – (and of course, new stationery!). It's a generous invitation to us all to renew, refresh, (and, in some cases, redefine!) our goals and our approaches.

I am absolutely delighted to greet you with the news that our pupils performed with customary excellence in their recent summer external GCSE and A level examinations, the headlines of which are set out below. Congratulations to all our pupils who did battle in the examinations, and well done on living out our motto of *Respice Finem!*

Whilst no doubt important, such measures can be tediously narrow when it comes to capturing the breadth, vibrancy and vitality that go to mark a bustling, lively and energetic School such as ours. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on other front-line developments. Amongst the most striking 'front-facing' initiatives are included the new on-site cricket nets and the new gym refurbishment. The cricket nets should provide us with state of the art practice nets, complete with bowling machine. This widens our sports offer, encourages participation and enhances skill development and expertise in that great game which we are fast reclaiming as our own at the national level. We're keen to do all we can here at the grass roots of school cricket to support and develop the game.

The gym refurbishment has seen the installation of state of the art hardware, ranging from jump ropes and punch bags (for boxing training, et al) to a Watt-bike for the serious, high performance athlete, with much else in between (including running machines, weight stacks, and a climbing and a ski- machine). It should provide a fully functional and versatile space for all pupils to enjoy and to work off the stresses of the school day. Other developments on the co-curricular front include a refurbishment of the CCF Lodge to support the excellent work that is going on with the Contingent under the new command structure. I look forward to sharing with you the widening of our co-curricular and sports provision and the heights to which our pupils scale across a range of co-curricular domains.

It is worth adding that such capital facilities and such an extended curriculum have in large part been made possible by the vital contributions of the Foundation and the Friends of the London Oratory School, our two ways of raising funds from the parental and community body to support the School. Whilst the Foundation raises funds predominantly through events for spending on

infrastructure and buildings (like the gym and the cricket nets), the Friends of the London Oratory School raises funds through the parental contribution scheme of monthly direct debits (this funds activities such as CCF, in addition to other co-curricular and curricular activities). Full details of this critical work and of how you may make a valuable contribution are set out below. Any contribution you could make to the School, however large or small, on either of these – or other fronts – would be greatly appreciated; without them, we risk being a very different kind of school.

Behind the scenes, much of great excitement continues to happen, not least our positioning as a national trailblazer in delivering character education. I very much look forward to sharing the fruits of these developments with you once they have ripened more fully in the very near future.

Please find enclosed with this letter a number of important items and notices for your perusal that should ease assimilation into the School year. On which point, I would like to bring to your attention the *Calendar, Rules and Regulations 2019-20* booklet, which clarifies precisely where we are in relation to matters such as uniform and kit, helping our pupils to form the habits that go to make up good character. Please do take time to reflect on this with your children, and reinforce where necessary.

I very much look forward to meeting you all very soon at the various events we have planned - we have a wonderfully full year ahead of us, so let us seize it with both hands!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. W. K. E." with a horizontal line underneath.

## Items and Notices

With this letter you should find a copy of the following:

- Calendar Rules & Regulations (*two copies - one for pupil*)
- Music Charges 2019-20 (*for parents of pupils who have individual music tuition*)
- Choral Society Letter (*for parents of new pupils*).

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW TERM

Wednesday 4th September	8.30am	Senior Prefects.
	11.00am	First-formers and J1 pupils.
	2.00pm	J1 pupils and First-formers finish.
Thursday 5th September	8.30am	First form and Junior House pupils.
	3.30pm	First form and Junior House pupils finish.
Friday 8th September	8.30am	All pupils to attend.
	3.30pm	All pupils finish.
Wednesday 11th September	6.00pm	Mass for First Form pupils and parents, The Oratory Church.

### STAFF CHANGES

There have been a number of staff departures and arrivals over the summer:

#### Leaving

Miss S Allen  
Mr P Flanagan  
Miss E Fryer  
Miss M Holden  
Mr T Hore-Lacy  
Mrs B Korzeniowska  
Mr J McDonnell  
Miss H Montgomery  
Mr S Pitchers  
Mrs V Sanchez  
Mr A Smith

#### Joining

Mr R Beinart - English  
Mrs S Billington - Physics  
Miss H Carradine - French  
Miss L Clements - Librarian  
Mrs L Gracias - Sixth Form Study Supervisor  
Miss G Dolatshahi - German  
Miss C Hales - Chemistry  
Miss A Halls - English  
Mr J Harnett - Geography  
Mr Z Iqbal - Mathematics  
Mrs A Kostrzak - Receptionist and Registry Secretary  
Mr A Martin - Mathematics  
Miss I Parker - French  
Mr D Rees-Williams - French & Spanish  
Mr J Speakman - Music  
Mr J Sullivan - English  
Ms A Thompson - Finance Manager  
Miss K Wallace - History  
Mrs C Walsh - English  
Mr R West - Physics

### **Internal Appointments:**

Mr Lynch and Mr Moyes have been appointed as Senior Housemasters; Mr Lynch will take over from Mr Pitchers as Howard Housemaster; Mrs McDonough returns from maternity leave to Southwell House; Miss Shevlin has been appointed as Owen Housemaster; Miss Costello as Head of Geography.

## **2019 RESULTS AND UNIVERSITY PLACES**

### **A levels**

We are absolutely delighted with yet another year of excellence in our A-level performance. Yet again, our pupils and staff have risen to an exacting challenge to secure outstanding results. With an A\*/A rate at 35%, school performance continues to buck national trends, both in terms of outcomes and offer, in a toughening intellectual landscape. Such results are a fine testimony to the courage, commitment and dedication of staff and pupils. Whilst the big picture is striking, there were also some exceptional individual performances, with just short of 1 in every 6 of our pupils gaining a 'full house' of AAA or above. A high proportion of pupils are well placed to take up offers for the most competitive courses at world class universities, including Oxbridge. We are also equally proud of our pupils that have thrived and grown with us outside of this relatively narrow definition of success. This was a committed and enterprising group of youngsters and we are confident that they are ready to thrive in their next educational step and beyond.

### **GCSEs**

We are similarly delighted with yet another year of excellence in our GCSE performance. Overall, the figures are marginally up on last year's already impressive set of results. In a figure which includes English and Mathematics, nearly half of all grades registered at 7-9, which converts to an A\*/A in 'old money'; nearly one in five attained 5 x Grade 8s and above; moreover, over two thirds of grades attained 6-9 (A\*-B), and 83% with a Grade 5 and above. Set within the context of comprehensive intake, the rigorous intellectual demands of the reformed examinations, the unapologetically academic curriculum of our School, male performance relative to female, and performance in relation to national benchmarks, such an achievement is a fine testimony to the aspiration, perspiration and inspiration of our highly dedicated staff and pupils alike.

At least one educational inference is clear from this data: if the bar of expectation is set high for our boys, then they will leap over it.

We would like to congratulate all our pupils and their families, and wish them all the very best for the next stage of their educational journey.

## **CONTACT ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

It is particularly important that the information we hold in this respect is up-to-date. This includes: your home address, telephone number (and your mobile telephone number, if you have one) and email address; your contact number at work; the name, address and telephone number of at least one person whom we can contact in an emergency (if we are unable to contact either parent); and the name, address and telephone number of the pupil's GP (family doctor). If you have any changes to your contact details please give them to your son or daughter to pass to their Form Teacher.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Parents are reminded that issues relating to your son's general well-being should be directed first to their Housemaster. Immediate academic issues should be directed to the relevant subject's Head of Department, whilst long term curriculum provision and class setting to Miss Devereux, Deputy Headmaster, who oversees academic provision at the School.

## **NEWSLETTER**

The majority of our parents are now receiving the weekly School Newsletter as email to their chosen address, many at work. The bulletin contains updates, reminders and further details on forthcoming events and provides a means of communication should an urgent notice need to be circulated. Please register through the School's website to obtain this service.

## **ABSENCE PROCEDURES**

May I ask all parents to please contact the School in the morning if your son will not be attending school during the day. The School aims to send out an email, each day at mid-morning, to the parents of those pupils who are not at school and have not contacted us. If your email address needs changing, please contact the school Registry on 020 7385 0102 or [registrar@los.ac](mailto:registrar@los.ac)

## **PHONECARDS**

For boys who need to make telephone calls from School, there is a payphone close to the front entrance. A pre-paid phone card may be purchased from the Receptionist for £5.00.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Parents are reminded that, where possible, appointments for medical or dental treatment should be arranged outside of school hours and that, as we do not employ a full time nurse, pupils who are unwell should not be sent to School. Please also ensure that you notify the School promptly of any changes or updates in any medical conditions your child may have.

## **TIME TO TALK, HERE TO LISTEN**

Please alert pupils to the following important pastoral initiative, known as *Time to Talk, Here to Listen*. *Time to Talk, Here to Listen* is a voluntary arm of the Wilfrid Faber Counselling Service and will provide important and much needed support and accompaniment to pupils, should pupils so wish to avail themselves of this. This can be done either as a 'drop-in' service, scheduled appointments, or via referrals. The team will complement and support the excellent work already being done by our School Counsellor, Chaplain, Form Tutors, and Housemasters. Details of what's involved in the service and of how you can support your children in accessing it are available from Mr Marty.

## **SCHOOL MASS AND SERVICES AT THE ORATORY CHURCH**

Our visits to the Oratory are a very important part of the School's culture and tradition and give witness to the School's link to the Oratory Church. There are seven occasions during the Academic Year when the School meets for worship at the Oratory Church:

### **Michaelmas Term**

Academic Mass - Thursday 26th September 2019

All Saints' Day Mass - Friday 1st November 2019

Carol Service - Wednesday 18th December 2019

### **Lent term**

St Thomas Aquinas Mass - Tuesday 28th January 2020

Ash Wednesday Mass - Wednesday 26th February 2020

### **Trinity term**

Patronal Festival - Friday 22nd May 2020

Feast of the Sacred Heart Mass - Friday 19th June 2020

## LUNCH PAYMENT AND MUSIC FEES

The cost of school lunches for 2019-2020 is £3.20 (£3.30 for Juniors). A statement or a lunch payment envelope will be sent out to you in the next week or so. The School aims to be a cashless school. Effective from September 2019, parents who are not currently paying lunch money, music fees and magazines money by direct debit, are advised to pay through Direct Debit. The lunch payment will be taken through Direct Debit on the 1st of each month over a 9 month period.

Direct Debit Instruction forms are available either from the School website, Reception, or Mr Sircar, the Director of Finance and Operations.

We cannot add a pupil to the Free School Meal Register without evidence of eligibility.

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2019 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Children who receive these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also receive free school meals.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, eligibility carries forward until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31st March 2022.

To apply for free school meals you must complete a form, which is available from the School or on the School website ([www.london-oratory.org](http://www.london-oratory.org)) under the 'Healthy Eating' section. Alternatively please contact your home local authority for details on how to apply through them.

## SCHOOL SHOP

From Tuesday 27th August the School Shop will be open between 10.00am and 4.00pm by appointment only. Once term starts, it is open for an hour after school Monday to Friday, during term time. The shop manager is Mrs Freely and the telephone number for the shop is 020 7381 7685; please feel free to leave your name and telephone number and Mrs Freely will return your call as soon as possible.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

There are two main ways of contributing financially to The London Oratory School:

### **FRIENDS OF THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL (aka the Parental Contribution Scheme)**

The first is via the **Friends of the London Oratory School**. This is a direct debit mandate of regular parental contributions. It is spent on subsidising the curriculum. This means that, through it, the School is able to hire additional teachers, to keep class sizes down, and to recruit and retain talented teaching staff. It also enables the delivery of the co-curricular programme – those all-

important, wider parts of education that take place outside of the confines of the subject-based curriculum. Your contribution here thus has a direct impact on the pupil experience in the School, broadening and deepening their education, and exposing them to the most talented teachers. Without your invaluable contribution here, however large or small, the identity of the School would radically transform.

As you may recall, the Chairman of the Friends wrote to you inviting you to support the School through the Parental Contribution Scheme. Given the vital lifeline that such donations make, especially at such cash-strapped times for state funded schools, I would be very grateful if you would return the Direct Debit Form that was sent at your earliest convenience.

If you are unable to do so, or do not wish to contribute to the scheme, could I please respectfully request that you complete the form and insert "Unable to Contribute" in the box marked "Gift Aid Declaration". There is no need to offer an explanation, but your reply will help us to recognise the exercise of your right not to be contacted henceforth about the scheme. All responses, whether donations or exemptions, are treated in the strictest confidence and are anonymised from the point of view of the School's teaching staff, including its leadership and management.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jackie McRoberts [jmcroberts@los.ac](mailto:jmcroberts@los.ac) who manages the Friends.

## THE FOUNDATION

The second method of contribution is via **The Foundation**. Whereas FLOS subsidises curriculum delivery, the Foundation funds capital spend – buildings and infrastructure enhancements. Contributions to the Foundation are often made by cheques made payable directly to the Foundation. The Foundation also raises monies through signature events, such as the Gala dinner evening. All parents and their guests are very much encouraged to support such events, not least since they are such a fun way to meet other parents and families connected with the School. The monies raised by the Foundation are spent on infrastructure and buildings. From such donations, this year we have been able to refurbish the gym and construct the cricket nets, in addition to other projects that enhance the pupil experience on the campus. It represents a long-term investment in the School.

If you would like to know more about the work of The Foundation, or how you may contribute, please do contact [HMPA@los.ac](mailto:HMPA@los.ac) or [jmcroberts@los.ac](mailto:jmcroberts@los.ac) for further details.

In addition, former pupils and their families can support the School through the gift of legacy donations. This is known as the Faber Society. Details of this can be received from [HMPA@los.ac](mailto:HMPA@los.ac) and [jmcroberts@los.ac](mailto:jmcroberts@los.ac)

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