

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and you have enjoyed the warm weather over the summer. As we approach the start of the new academic year, I wanted to share some key information so that you and your child(ren) can feel prepared for another important year at Gildredge House.

Over the past two days, our staff have been in school involved in their own professional learning and preparing to welcome the students back to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. As a staff, we have spent time agreeing the collective vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities for our school; influenced and shaped by the feedback of students, parents, staff and Governors. We are excited to share this with you all very soon. We are confident that this work will continue to drive school improvement over the next five years, and we cannot wait to begin.

### Results

I am also pleased to share our Year 11 and Year 13 students' successes. Students have shown real resilience and character despite the challenges of studying through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are incredibly proud of the individual achievements of all our students. Their results are the culmination of dedication, perseverance, and support and partnership from parents and school staff. Seeing the joy on the students' faces was fantastic as they collected their results and celebrated together.

In our Sixth Form, 99% of students achieved an A Level pass grade of A\* to E, and 100% of students passed their BTEC qualifications. In addition, 23% of A Level students achieved an A\* and A grade, 33% achieved an A\* to B grade, and 67% achieved an A\* to C grade. We are delighted that so many of our students are now off to fantastic universities to further their studies and we wish them every success.

In Year 11, 69% of students achieved a grade 4 (the recognised pass mark) or above in five or more subjects, including English and Maths, and 42% of students achieved a grade 5 or above in five or more subjects, including English and Maths. An impressive 50% of all students achieved at least one grade 7 or higher and 22% of our students achieved 5 or more grade 7 to 9 (A\* to A). Special congratulations must go to Ben B, Tadeusz T, Jolie P, Charlie P, Finn O and Blythe A, who all achieved a grade 8 or 9 in all their GCSEs. We cannot wait to welcome many of these students back into our Sixth Form next week.

These figures align with expected outcomes, which, given the backdrop of school closures and COVID-19 restrictions, amongst other challenges, is excellent and demonstrates the commitment to learning from both our students and school staff.

### Positive Relationships

As we approach the new academic year and start the journey with new cohorts of students, we must recognise and acknowledge the key factors that lead to students' academic and pastoral success. Solid partnerships and relationships between students, teachers, and you at home are critical. As the proverb goes, "it takes a village to raise a child". We must work together positively as a team to ensure all our young people grow, flourish and are successful. We are therefore grateful for your continued support at home with attendance, behaviour and independent learning, including homework. It is clear from our results that those students who attend Gildredge House and are ready to learn, are respectful, and safe in lessons, achieve well.

### Timings of the School Day: Secondary Phase

As a reminder, please see below for the timings of Secondary phase lessons next academic year. These timings mean that Secondary phase students will not need to withdraw from learning at the end of the day to pick up siblings from the Primary phase. The Primary phase team will ensure Primary students are safe and supervised until their older siblings have finished school at 15:05.

08:10- 08:25:	Student Arrival
08:25 - 08:50:	Period 1 (Tutor Time)
08:50 - 09:40:	Period 2
09:40 - 10:30:	Period 3
10:30 - 11:20:	Period 4
<b>11:20 - 11:55:</b>	<b>First Break</b>
11:55 - 12:45:	Period 5
12:45 - 13:35:	Period 6
<b>13:35 - 14:10:</b>	<b>Second Break</b>
14:10 - 15:05:	Period 7
15:05 - 16:20:	Extra-Curricular Activities (Tuesday to Thursday)

### Upcoming School Events

Looking forward to the next few weeks, we have some important events to look forward to and more information on these will be provided in due course. However, I would like to draw your attention to a few.

One of the highlights of the Gildredge House calendar is Car Free Day and the whole school Sponsored Walk which is taking place on Thursday 22nd September 2022.

Following this whole school event, we will begin to host a number of Open Events to showcase our school to students currently in Nursery, Year 6 and Year 11.

The first of these Open Events is the Year 7 Open Evening on Monday 26th September 2022 from 5.30-8.00pm. Our students are our greatest advocates of the school and it is expected that a high number of students will be showcasing their amazing skills as Tour Guides, Subject Ambassadors and Speakers. Further information will be provided to students taking part in the Open Event. I would like to make parents aware that, due to the late finishing time of the Year 7 Open Evening for students and staff, the start of the following school day will be delayed to enable staff to get their classrooms ready for the day. Therefore, the school day will begin at 9.35am for Secondary and Sixth Form students on Tuesday 27th September 2022.

### School Site Improvements

Over the summer break, our Estates, Finance and administration teams have worked tirelessly to ensure that our school is ready for the new academic year. The school site has been a hive of activity which saw over twenty-five different contractors working on various projects across the school, and we look forward to our students seeing the school facilities refreshed and improved when they return next week.

We have created a new Primary computer suite, upgraded and improved the toilets in the Devonshire wing, upper Primary and Dining Room, built wooden steps down to the field from the school drive for a safer route to the field, prepared the ground ready for our new covered dining area which is being installed this October, developed the plaza to include two new outdoor table tennis tables and more seating, re-carpeted key areas, and started the work on fixing our flat roofs - to name just a few. In keeping with the 'broken window theory', our Estates team have also given the school a general tidy, paint and refresh, so I very much hope that students continue to look after our school site with pride. A huge thank you to the team of staff who have made all this possible. There will be more developments to our school site as the year progresses as we continually look to improve our school to support student learning and wellbeing.

### **School Uniform and Equipment Expectations**

As mentioned in my letter to parents at the end of the Summer Term, please ensure that your children return to school wearing the correct school uniform in line with our expectations, including school shoes and equipment. Our staff will be at the school gate on Monday morning, welcoming students and checking their uniform as they arrive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that Gildredge House is a nut-free school.

We look forward to welcoming our new and existing students back to school on Monday.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards



Mr. C Bull  
Head Teacher