



Easthampstead Park Community School

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19 December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of the calendar year is nearly upon us, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of our students for their continued hard work and participation in learning. They are a credit to our community and it is their passion, commitment and willingness to have a go, that make Easthampstead Park the "Good School" that we are all proud of.

We believe in the values of "Respect and Pride," and believe that self-belief and a growth mind-set are the building blocks of a successful future. In a world of long and harder examinations, we are committed to having the very highest expectations of our students, and supporting them in achieving their full potential. *During the last term:*

- In Discovery School, students are adapting to new Schemes of work and assessments building upon and extending their prior learning from primary school.
- In Destiny School, Key Stage 4 students have responded positively to the new GCSE specifications and are working towards achieving the required grades of five and above.
- In EPCS6, students are busy revising for the pre-public exams they will sit on their return to school in January 2018.

Whilst doing well in exams, is very important, at EPCS, we recognise that education is about more than simply academic success. Over the past term, our students have been involved in charity work and extra-curricular opportunities helping them to develop their confidence, problem solving and ability to work with others. Since September, students from EPCS have participated in celebration events, trips, visits, and the chance to engage with local employers. Some students made a visit to the Cologne Christmas markets, whilst others visited Fujitsu's Head Office. Some students took part in the school play, performing to a sold out audience, whilst others took part in the Micro Tyco challenge, competing to earn a prestigious work experience placement with Deloitte. We are very proud of our students' achievements and frequently receive feedback from visitors that they are delightful, well-mannered and engaging.

To ensure that we maintain our high standards, we set clear expectations that all our students must follow and parents support. School policies are discussed with students, parents, governors and staff before implementation. For students to stand the very best chances of success, it is vital that we work in three way partnership: school, parents and student. We thank you for your continued support and attach a reminder of our core student expectations to this letter.

I would be grateful if you could pay particular attention to the 'Mobile Phone' section of these expectations. For many young people today, the ownership of a mobile phone is considered a necessary and vital part of their social life. However, it is vital that mobile phones are managed carefully in school to ensure they do not interfere with our core business of teaching and learning and that we safeguard our students. There have recently been several incidents of escalating conflict between students and in some instances, students and teachers, involving mobile phones. Such behaviour is entirely unacceptable and impacts negatively on the orderly running of the school. As per our Mobile Phone Policy, students in Discovery School must continue to hand their phone to their tutor before formal learning starts. Students in Destiny Years 9, 10 and 11 will not be allowed to use their mobile phones during break or lunchtime, or when moving around the school site. This includes wearing headphones. Parents and students need to be clear that the misuse of mobile phones by students will not be tolerated. Further details are found in the full Mobile Phone Policy available on the school website. I am grateful for your support with this matter.

Finally, I wish all of our students and families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for attending the many parental events and evenings over the past term in support of your child and the community; it makes a real difference. Our last day of this term is Tuesday 19 December and students will be finishing school at 12.25pm.

All students return to school at 8.40am on Wednesday 3rd January 2018. It will be a **Week A** timetable.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Cook and the Senior Leadership Team at EPCS



Headteacher: Mrs Liz Cook MA, BA(Hons)