



THE WEBBER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together

10 September 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back and I hope that you had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some lovely family time together.

This is the first of this year's Newsletters aimed at keeping you updated on all the key developments and main events happening in school and there certainly has been a lot happening this summer!

At our first Whole School Assembly of the academic year we warmly welcomed 38 new students who have joined the Webber Family. The dining hall suddenly seemed very full in assembly as the school continues to grow steadily. We have opened 2 new classes in the Prep School to allow for growth and have moved to a 2 form entry model in Year 7-9. We are taking applications and assessments now for September 2017 and are busier than ever. I think Webber as the best-kept secret in town may be out!



Our students are looking very smart and business like in their new uniforms, particularly Year 1-6 with the introduction of blazers, hats and caps. I am aware that a few families have experienced challenges with sizing and are awaiting the boys' caps and a few other items which were out of stock. I am working with DJ uniforms to get these items to school for delivery as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

We have 11 new members of staff joining the team this term to support the growth of the school and bring their expertise and ideas to help develop and enrich the students' learning experiences. Please join me in welcoming them to the Webber Team.

Mr Richard Austen: Deputy Head and English teacher

Mr Matthew Paris: Director of Studies and Mathematics teacher

Mrs Jennifer Tompkins: Business and Economics teacher and Work Related Learning Coordinator

Mr Tom Troy: History and Government and Politics teacher

Mrs Montserrat Carrillo: MFL teacher and International Co-ordinator (returning to Webber after a 2-year gap)

Mrs Emma Lipinski: Year 5 class teacher

Mrs Michelle Penny: Year 3 class teacher

Miss Ella Townsend: Lead on FS1 & 2 in a new role

Mrs Smiya Uzair: Early Years teacher

Miss Chelsie Browne: PE Technician: England Korfbal player

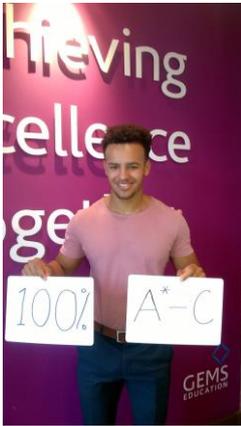
Mrs Kate McLean: Temporary Receptionist cover for Mrs Roz Thomas

Over the summer, the school campus has under gone a series of up-grades:

- New teaching classrooms created for Year 4 and 5
- Senior Maths and Science corridor and Prep corridor decorated
- Reception Area ‘refreshed’
- Enrichment Suite Refurbishment
- Peripatetic Suite created
- New IT server installed and wireless network upgrade
- New LED lighting system installed in the Sports Hall
- EYFS bathroom refit
- New flooring fitted in kitchen area
- Site landscaping
- General maintenance

Thank you to Mr Wilson and Mr Payne for their hard work over the Summer Break to have the School looking at its very best for the new academic year.

We will be welcoming a VIP guest to school next week, Ms Rebecca Plaskitt, the newly appointed Director of Education GEMS Europe, who has a GEMS remit for ensuring the quality of education standards across all the schools in the group throughout Europe. We look forward to working in collaboration with Ms Plaskitt and I am sure she will be impressed with the young people she meets at Webber.



It's official The Webber Independent School is ranked the Best 5 Star School in the Milton Keynes area! [MK Citizen](#), [Good School Guide](#)

You may have read in the local press coverage of our excellent external examination results again this year with both our A level and GCSE students achieving our best ever results which were up across the board again on last year! We are delighted that the outstanding commitment of the staff and students and the excellent parental engagement and support are recognised in this way. This is certainly helping to generate an interest in the school and we are seeing a spike in student applications with 3 year groups already full and with waiting lists.



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
A Level A*-E %	74.2	100	86.0	100	96	100	100
GCSE 5+ A*-C %	64.9	56.2	67.0	84.21	73.0	82.4	92.0

100% of our Year 13 students achieved A*-C grades and 100% of them will shortly be heading off to their university of first choice to start their new courses. We wish them luck and we have invited them back at Christmas to share their experiences with our Sixth Form students.

Particular congratulations to our highest achieving student Hatim Sachak with 8 A*, 2 A's and 2 B's and well done to all the A level and the Year 9,10 and 11 GCSE students who worked hard continually throughout their courses to achieve these excellent grades and of course to all the parents for their support and encouragement.



We had lots of delighted students and very proud parents on the Results Days. A huge 'Thank You' also to the teachers who gave so much extra support to our students to ensure that they had the very best teaching and were able to achieve and in many cases out perform their target grades.

However, as a school we never stand still and rest on our laurels. Over the 2 INSET days before the start of term, we focussed as a staff on WWW and EBI and set our yearly priorities for how we can be even better this academic year. Our priorities for this year in school continue to focus on excellence, to explore ways in which we can be better this year than we were last year.

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Increased Rigor and Monitoring of Teaching and Learning
- Student Recruitment, Marketing and PR
- ISI Inspection Ready
- Developing the Reporting System : 'life after levels'
- Everyone a Leader : New Core and Extended Senior Leadership Team and Staff Succession Planning Training Programme
- New Appraisal and Performance Review Cycle
- Effective data analysis and data use for target setting, monitoring and tracking student progress
- Curriculum Review and Planning 2017-18
- SIMS (Information System) Embedded

With GCSE the second wave of new syllabi, texts and textbooks roll out this year. This year will also see the first of the 1-9 GCSE Grades being awarded in English and Mathematics at the end of the 2 year linear course to replace the U-A* grading system and all other subjects are now coming on line.

At A Level too there are more new syllabi, set texts and textbooks in all subjects as well as significant changes in course work and the format of the courses. These changes necessitate a new curriculum plan and an alternative method of reporting to parents.



THE WEBBER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Our subject staff have long been preparing for these changes with appropriate examination board training and are now ready to roll them out. Throughout the term will be speaking to students and of course the parents in further detail to explain the new reporting and curriculum changes in greater detail.

We are also ensuring that we are Inspection Ready for our ISI Inspection. In 2012 we were awarded 4/8 Excellent and 4/8 Good, so naturally we will be aiming for Excellence in all we do.

The School Improvement Plan is reviewed and updated annually and I will be inviting students, staff and parents to offer their suggestions on WWW (What Went Well) and EBI (Even Better If). For parents there will be 2 Focus Groups: a breakfast and an early evening session as well the opportunity to email in feedback and suggestions. I look forward to receiving your input.

This week the students in Years 3-13 have been signing up for the tremendous selection of over 50 Extra-curricular clubs, activities and academic booster sessions on offer at lunchtime and after school. These clubs start next week.

We will also be publishing our Key Dates for the Term next week and the Weekly Bulletin on a Friday will continue to highlight events as a reminder of what is coming up.

Please also sign up for the Webber Blog and follow us on Twitter and Facebook to keep current and share the highlights of the great work and play in the learning community.

One of the first events this term will be the FOWIS Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September from 08:30 to 11:00 in the Parent Café. This charity fundraising event is particularly poignant this year as our lovely Receptionist Mrs Roz Thomas was sadly diagnosed with cancer at the end of the summer term. She will be taking a break from the Webber Front desk for a while and will be starting her treatment very soon. We wish her a full and speedy recovery and our thoughts and best wishes go to her. We do hope that you will be able to bake and donate some treats and come along to join the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in support of this cancer charity.

FOWIS (Our Parents Association) also hold an informal get together in the Café at 9am for all parents on the first Tuesday of each month beginning 4 October and we do hope that new parents will also come along and meet the FOWIS team.

There will also be a New Parent Meet the Teachers Evening on Thursday 15 September 6:00pm to 7:00pm for families who are new to the School or for existing families who would like to meet with the Head of Phase and the Form Tutors / Class Teacher to discuss pastoral issues. Our first Parent Teacher Conferences of the year start on 5 October towards the end of the half term.

The increase in student numbers is in most part due to word of mouth. I would ask for your help in promoting our School by talking to your friends and work colleagues about our wonderful school and encouraging them to come along to our monthly Open Days or to call in to school to speak to our Registrar Mrs Murchison, to book a private bespoke tour at a time convenient to them. The Refer a Friend Programme will continue this year with a £500 'Thank You' reduction from your school fees for each family that joins the school.

Our Scholarship Programme for academic excellence is also available to students who have an A / A* profile or outstanding sporting, artistic or musical talents.

This year following an inspirational summer of Team GB Olympic excellence, we have entered into a very exciting Webber Elite Badminton Partnership in association with Badminton England and Elite Coach Mrs Sara Sankey. We have 10 England Nationally Ranked badminton scholars from Years 4-11 who train intensively at Webber before, during and after school and at weekends. We are the only school in England to offer this intensive training programme where sporting excellence goes hand in hand with academic excellence. This has created quite a flurry of interest on the national badminton circuit and we have seen a spike in interest with families relocating from around the UK to participate in this unique programme. The Webber Elite team has National competitions this weekend and are then heading off to Sweden next week for international competitions. We wish them well and look forward to tracking their progress and success in the coming months. Look out for these names in future Olympics!



Aarav Sujith	Y4
Rishabh Bharadwaj	Y6
Ethan Hosken	Y7
Oliver Butler	Y7
Ashwati Nair	Y8
Lisa Curtin	Y8
Nadeem Dalvi	Y8
Gauri Shidhaye	Y9
Adam Davies	Y10
Tom Carver	Y11

There is a tangible feeling of excitement, energy and buzz around school at the start of this academic year, which is wonderful and sets the tone for another great year of Achieving Excellence Together.

Kind regards

Mrs H Marsden
Headmistress