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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have all had a good break. I am sure for many of our students and their families the half term break has proved to be a time of great industry as our students, in Years 11 and 13, revise for their public exams, which began in earnest at the end of last term, and continue for the next few weeks. I wish all of them the very best for a successful exam season, and am sure from all the work and effort they have put in over the years, that the outcomes from the exams will provide them with a great platform to continue their future studies, or move into the workplace. I would like to thank all parents / carers for their continued support. Our partnership is at the heart of ensuring our young people feel positive and supported at this stressful time.

I would also like to take the opportunity to share some good news with you regarding Chatham Grammar School for Girls.

The Condition Improvement Fund

Earlier in the year UKATs Finance Director, Kate Allen, together with CGSG's Principal, Wendy Walters, bid to secure funding for some much needed improvements to the CGSG building. As you may realise the academy has undergone major internal decoration in most areas with new carpet and has had an upgrade to its computer systems and stock. Much of the external buildings were in desperate need of repairs and attention. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the two bids that were submitted to the Department for Education were both successful, securing a combined sum of just over £3 million - £846,000 for replacing the whole roof of the oldest building, and a further £2.2m to remove the rotting buildings at the front and rear of the building, and to provide a new front entrance, to improve the security of the site, and add some additional classrooms. In addition there will be resurfacing and new layout to the existing car park. We hope to remove most of the carparking area between the teaching blocks to provide a better and safer environment for students. Work will begin over the summer holidays and continue into the next academic year. We are currently working with the management and build company, to ensure that the remove and build programme, will not interfere with students learning, and all procedures will be in place to ensure our students health and safety.

The Selective School Expansion Fund

UKAT also recently submitted a bid to expand the number of places at CGSG for selective students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The plan if successful will also attract

financial resources to ensure we can fully accommodate this expansion. Medway Council have given their support to this bid. Part of the bid outlines clearly how CGSG will, through its curriculum outreach programme, work with local primary schools to enhance the education of young students in key stages 1 and 2. The bid also develops the theme of talent spotting young scientists and mathematicians early so that we can build some direct career routes into the University Medical School via our UKAT post 16 provision. The outcome of this bid will not be known for a number of months.

Recognition by the Department of Education

We were also delighted to receive a letter last term from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb, MP, an Education Minister, in recognition of the significant improvement of CGSG exam results last summer, evidencing the beginning of the transformation of standards at CGSG, under the University of Kent leadership. I have attached this letter for your perusal.

Uniform Changes

Over many months we have been reviewing and developing a new uniform and sports kit for CGSG. The new uniform will be introduced from September 2019, with all new Year 7 students purchasing the new uniform and sports kit for their start in September 2019. The new uniform will also have a new logo badge. UKAT are working with the University sponsor to devise a new logo that complements the University of Kent house style.

Existing students from Year 8 to Year 11 can continue to wear their current uniform from Tower Sports in Rainham, or they can choose to purchase the new uniform.

We would like to ask that there is no mixing of the two uniforms, which means that students can wear all items of clothing from the existing uniform, or all items of clothing from the new uniform, this also includes the sports kit.

We would expect all CGSG students from all year groups to be wearing the new uniform and sports kit by September 2022.

The new supplier for the new uniform is called Uniformbase and their contact details are as follows:

11 Railway Street
Chatham
Kent
ME4 4HU
Tel: 01634 407 217
E: info@uniformbase.co.uk
W: <http://www.uniformbase.co.uk>

Please do not hesitate to contact Uniformbase about the new uniform as they are very helpful and looking forward to working with us and our parents and carers.

Other Changes

Over many months the UKAT Trustees, together with some parents/carers and students, have been debating the question as to whether CGSG ought to rename itself – to embed its new vision with a key focus on Science, Maths and Medicine. This new vision in the wake of the advent of the University Medical hub. Many suggestions for a new name have been

made focusing on the many pioneering women in medicine such as Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Elizabeth Blackwell and Mary Seacole to name a few. However we understand a name change brings with it great emotion for the many current, and former alumni, of the school who hold the current name in great affection. Interestingly, the history of the school shows that CGSG has been through many name and site changes over time - always adapting itself to new visions and times. However after much debate the Trustees have decided that the time is not right for a name change, but will revisit it in the near future after further consultation with the CGSG community.

Minibuses

I am very grateful to the Parents Reference group who met earlier in the year, and who explored with us the many difficulties some parents / carers and students have, in commuting to the CGSG site. Clearly CGSG geographical position, and its main entrance, along a very busy road, has caused some difficulties. The site is not very visible from this main road, and public transport routes are not great. In light of this conversation the Trustees are looking to come up with some transport solutions, through negotiating with local bus companies, and by setting up our own school minibus transport system. We would like input from current parents / carers as to where they think the transport routes should be. If you have thoughts about this matter then please can you email your ideas to jenniferhygate@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk .

Lastly I hope you have been pleased with the progress the school has made in the last 18 months, under the leadership of the University of Kent. There is still much to be achieved but we believe that already many CGSG students have benefited from many curriculum enhancements that the University have brought to the school and to UKAT.

Best wishes to all our families and students.

Judy Rider
CEO and Executive Principal
UKAT