



Dear Parents/Carers,

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

It was lovely to see so many parents and students at our Y11 Raising Achievement Evening last night. I am sure you will agree that there was a real buzz in the air and anticipation of what this year will bring. If you were unable to attend this event, we will shortly be releasing the presentation and a letter with key information. In the meantime, ask your child about Tassomai, make sure they have their password and encourage them to access this via The Student LaunchPad.

**The Student LaunchPad** has been designed by our staff to help students access a range of learning apps and resources that are used within the academy. Please click [here](#) for more details and how this can be accessed.

This year at the academy we will be using **VotesforSchools**, a weekly current affairs-based voting platform designed to engage young people in political and social issues. Through weekly discussion and voting in form time, not only are students learning about the world around them, but they are also becoming active citizens and preparing to participate in our democratic processes as adults. Here are some great ways you can get involved in the conversation:

- Check the VotesforSchools website. At 4pm every Friday the latest VoteTopic goes live, you can find this [here](#).
- Discuss the topic at home, ask your child to give arguments for each side of the debate to encourage critical thinking. Why not ask your child how they voted and why?
- Brush up on your own knowledge, read up on any topics your child is discussing or has discussed to see what your take on it is.
- Talk to your child about which issues they would like to see discussed at VotesforSchools. Our latest results and discussions points can be found [here](#)

To **safeguard** our children on school grounds at the start and end of each day, we are having to restrict parental access in any vehicle during drop off and collection times. Whilst we have a beautiful historic building, we only have narrow pathways and road access, and it is essential we keep our children safe. Parents should only access the site at these times if they are visiting Reception. Barriers will be in place to restrict cars going beyond the main reception area, ensuring those students walking into school are not placed at risk. May I also remind you that our vehicular access gate is closed between 3pm and 3.20pm.

Our **Year 7 Settling in Evening** takes place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and all parents will have received an invitation and appointment list. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

**The Heritage Fund** have contacted us to advise that the Voice Cloud has received a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting heritage project, 'Joseph Conrad – the life of a Lowestoft immigrant,' which is based in and about Lowestoft, Suffolk. The project focuses on the association that Joseph Conrad formed with Lowestoft fishermen and local people after arriving in the town in the late 19th century speaking under a dozen words of English. The Joseph Conrad programme will provide opportunities for local people and Polish/Eastern European communities to come together and participate in creative workshops which workshops will inform a



bespoke theatre piece which will be performed in 2024 to mark the centenary of Conrad's death and celebrate the connection he has with the town. The project launches on 1st October and will see eight workshops hosted between Winter 2023 and April 2024 when the show will be shared to showcase the findings.

Have a nice weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kate Williams**

**Principal**