



2nd October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this letter:

- Uniform thanks
- Parent governor election
- Extracurricular clubs
- Meet the Tutor Evening
- Punctuality
- Conduct around the college site

Uniform thanks

I wanted to say a big thank you for your support on uniform. The changes introduced at the start of term have largely gone very smoothly – this is significantly thanks to parents and carers reinforcing expectations at home. It is a great example of us working together to improve our school, and staff are saying how noticeable the positive impact has been on the behaviour and how it has significantly reduced the time that we've had to spend on maintaining uniform standards. It's not perfect and there remain some areas for improvement, but it's a big step forward. We really appreciate your part in that.

Parent governor election

Please see the separate communication from Natalie Mann, our Governance Professional, about Parent Governor vacancies. We would really welcome an application from any parent who would like to make a contribution to the school in this really important capacity and at a really critical moment in the College's journey. Thank you for your consideration.

Extra-curricular Clubs

It has been wonderful to see so many extracurricular clubs and activities up and running over this past fortnight. Please do talk to your children about what's on offer and encourage them to take part. You can view the Clubs and Activities on our website [here](#), these are being added to over the next few weeks. These wider experiences are such an important part of education, a big part of our culture and benefits children in so many ways.

Meet the Tutor Evening

We look forward to hosting our online Meet the Tutor Evening this Wednesday. You will have received an email directly from *Parents Booking* inviting you to make an appointment. Please do ensure you take the time to meet your child's tutor as they are your first point of contact in college for both yourself and them.

Punctuality

We are having a push on punctuality at the start of, and during, the school day. We have a big site and therefore a lot of movement, so this is always going to be a challenge, but your support in ensuring your children are out of the house on time in the morning (and on site by 8:20am) and your reinforcement of the importance of arriving at lessons on time is much appreciated – it makes a huge difference to learning.

Conduct around the college site

It is a complete joy just being around the school site and engaging with students. They are overwhelmingly polite, engaging and an absolute pleasure to work with. Almost all the time they treat each other, and others, with courtesy and respect. It's the hallmark of a strong community.

However there have been a few incidents where students (often in older year groups) have not treated other (often younger) students with appropriate levels of kindness. I have spoken to students about this in today's Whole School Broadcast. Everybody has the right to feel and be safe and happy at school and it is my most important responsibility as Headteacher. Where any unkind behaviour is displayed we will apply firm consequences and we need to ask for your clear support as parents. We have already increased staff presence and visibility on duty in key locations and are continuing to respond to ensure that everyone can feel safe and happy on the site at all times. Students should speak to their tutor if they experience unkind behaviours.

It's strange to think that it's only been a month since I arrived at ECC – I am starting to feel part of the family already, such has been the warmth of welcome. Perhaps the highlight so far was the incredible sense of community that we felt at the recent Year 6 Open Evening and of the pride in their school that so many students displayed on that evening. I look forward to meeting some parents and carers at the first of our 'Meet the Headteacher' evenings on Thursday where, as well as sharing some of my beliefs and values about the purpose of education, I will be asking parents and carers for their views on what they want from the Secondary School of your community. If you would like to join us, you can do so by booking via your Squid account.

With warm wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Inman