



Dear Parents/Carers

End of Year 8

We have not only reached the end of another successful term, but we have reached the end of our Year 8 journey!

It has undoubtedly been a year to feel very proud about, with this cohort collectively achieving an average of 89% positives on ClassCharts. Many of our students have made really good progress academically as evidenced by the Full Progress1 - Full Progress 3 data.

Students have participated in extracurricular activities on a regular basis and many have taken part in competitions with other tutor groups, year groups and schools demonstrating excellent communication skills, team work, adaptability, creativity and resilience.

I have continued to be impressed by the strengths demonstrated by students and am excited to continue as their pastoral lead into Year 9; being surrounded by students that are extremely thoughtful, ambitious and enthusiastic. I am very much looking forward to seeing the students thrive as they start their chosen foundation pathways subjects. This bridging year will see them develop new skills and deepen their knowledge, give challenge and provide a sound base for Academic study in Year 10.

It has been a very positive year and I do need to take this opportunity to thank you as parents, carers, family, friends and supporters of Easthampstead Park Community School. We have had parental engagement and support through parent attendance, to events such as Parents evening, the Foundation Options Pathways evenings and the recent Graduation ceremony.

As a Head of Year, I am very grateful to be surrounded by such a dedicated team of colleagues. The Year 8 tutors, Raising Standards team, Subject teachers and Learning Support staff have undoubtedly contributed to a successful year academically and pastorally. I know that we are certainly all excited to see the achievements of our students from September 2019.

Medical issues

Please update the school regarding any changes in your child's medical history that will impact on our duty of care or compliance with standard school rules. Please email welfare@epschool.org.

Communications

Please inform the school of any change in your named contacts (you need two) and if any details have changed for example your email or mobile phone number. Please email info@epschool.org.

Uniform kit for dance and PE

This was recently clarified with parents by letter please find a short summary of the requirements below:

- **No leggings** are allowed to be worn for either PE or Dance lessons.
- **No black** shorts/tracksuits bottoms/skorts.
- **No jewellery** can be worn during any physical activity and must be removed if the jewellery complies with school policy it can be taped up.
- All hair must be tied up for every lesson (a hair tie is part of the kit).
- All valuables must be handed in at the start of the lesson. The school will not take any responsibility for the loss or damage to items that are not handed in.
- No aerosols are allowed in school, roll on deodorants only.



Equipment

The summer provides an excellent opportunity to replace and restock your child's equipment. A student that is not equipped causes significant disruption to the learning environment and valuable learning time is lost. It also means they cannot be successful in their school day. We ask for your support with this to ensure that your child has a timetable, reading book and a fully stocked pencil case to fully engage with their learning. Stationery equipment can be purchased via your ParentPay account and we ask that you resolve any issues you identify with their uniform or equipment in readiness for September. Remember daily equipment includes a reading book

School bags

Please ensure that when buying your child a new school bag over the summer, it is fit for purpose, a reminder that handbags that can only be carried in the crook of are **not allowed** in school. If the bag has long straps or a cross strap that allows it to be carried on the arm or cross body this is acceptable. Rucksacks and satchels are the preferred option. An appropriate school bag should be large enough to hold an A4 folder lengthwise as well as other basics including a water bottle. Boys in particular should not consider the small 'man bag' styles to be appropriate to take a full part in school academic programmes and take responsibility for your resources.

Roll Call and check in

Please note the timings of the school day now incorporate Roll Call and the PREP period has moved to a different point in the school day. We have adjusted lesson times accordingly. Students practised roll call before the summer break and should know which location they are to line up with their tutor. All students will be involved in a roll call every morning overseen by the Head of Year.

We continue to demand high expectations of all our students and this provides an opportunity for tutors to check uniform and equipment and to rectify any issues without impacting on valuable learning time.

Dining hall opens (Breakfast available to purchase)	7:45
The school library opens	8.00
Lower school playground gate closes	8:40
Side entrance gate closes	8:45
Roll call- Phone check in- uniform and equipment check	8:50
Registration and Prep programme	8:50 - 9:20
Period 1	9:20 -10:30
Break	10.30 -11:00
Period 2	11:00 -12:10
Period 3	12:10 -13:20
Lunch	13:20 -13:50
Period 4	13:50 -15:00
Afternoon registration	15:00 - 15:10
Late detention (late without a valid reason)	15 mins on the same day as lateness

Mobile Phones

All students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 must hand in their mobile phone during morning tutor (roll call) as they are not permitted to have mobile phones in their possession. The phone should be silenced and notifications turned off. Students arriving late (after roll call) will be expected to hand their phone into Raising Standards for safekeeping.

Students who have a planned appointment, for example the dentist must let their tutor know then hand their phone into Raising Standards for collection at the appropriate time (when signing out of school).

Parents and students should be clear that the misuse of mobile phones will not be tolerated and failure to hand your phone in and keep it on your person will be treated seriously by the school as it is in clear breach of our rules. Parents wanting to communicate with their child during the times the phones are held by the school should go through the school office.

Misuse of their mobile phone will be dealt with using the principle of “see it, hear it, and take it”. If a student is found in possession of mobile phone between 8.50am and before the end of the school day at 3.10pm it will be confiscated. Communication will be made with home and the parent/carer will be responsible for visiting the school to collect the mobile phone by appointment. The mobile phone will not be returned to student unless in an extreme circumstance. If students fail to adhere to this the same principles set out in the school behaviour policy, will be applied with the response being proportionate to the severity of the misuse or defiance.

We ask for your support with this and to explain our clear expectations to your child to avoid any conflict with staff. Full details of the schools mobile phone policy can be found on the school website.

Punctuality and Attendance

Positive attendance equals positive results. I would like to thank parents for their continued effort ensuring your child attends school and ask that this extends into the next academic year. We will continue to encourage students to maintain their 100% attendance record, or to improve their current attendance to meet the national target of 96% or above.

Next academic year we will be working in partnership with WPA in promoting a positive approach to attendance. Could I please remind parents to contact the school as early as possible in the morning if your child is unable to attend for any reason. **The telephone number of our student absence line is 01344 304567 option 1 and the e-mail address welfare@epschool.org.** It is likely that you will receive a telephone call or text message from the school if your child does not arrive and you have not informed us of the reason. Students who have an attendance of less than 90% are considered to be persistently absent from school and their attendance will be monitored. If this applies to your child you will receive a letter informing you of this from the school in September. The school has updated its attendance policy which gives more guidance on this aspect it can be viewed on the school website.

Punctuality is very important characteristic showing respect for the other party, integrity and relieves anxiety and improves self-confidence. The school will take a robust stance on students arriving late without a valid reason. Students arriving late will be issued with a 15 minute detention that same day which will escalate through our behaviour system if they fail to attend.

Standards and Expectations

We have attached a reminder of our Standards and Expectations, which was provided in our new student information booklet for our new parents it provides a useful quick guide I hope you find it useful.

Finally, thank you to all of the Year 8 students for making this academic year a memorable one!

We wish you all an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Wednesday 4 September 2019 at 8:40am.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs J Fear
Head of Year 8**