19 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to welcome our new students and families to Rickmansworth School and to see all the students back after their summer break.

I am sure your children have already told you about our new teaching block which houses the Sixth Form, English, Film and Drama. We are very proud of this new addition to Rickmansworth School, which incorporates a Drama Studio, a Theatre, and a Cinema. On Wednesday evening we hosted an event for prospective use of the facilities by the local community after school hours. All of the attendees who know Rickmansworth School well were impressed by the new block and said how far the School has come over recent years. All of the work we have put into raising educational standards, improving the learning environment and facilities for the students is to ensure they have the best possible start in life. For parents and carers, there will be an opportunity to tour the new building during our Academic Review Day in October.

I would also like to thanks parents who have joined with us in the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) to School scheme. Our suppliers have reported that they have had one of the largest subscriptions to the scheme from a school. In excess of 240 Acer laptops have been purchased, and I know a lot of parents have other devices their son/daughter will bring to school.

So what happens now? The laptops are being delivered to the school and then are configured by our IT team for use of our systems. They will be given out to students on a rolling programme at the end of this month. If your son/daughter has their own device, this needs to be configured for use on the School’s Information System; as from today, they may bring their device to the IT office (next to the library) for configuration. I must emphasise they will need to leave their device with the IT team.

We have also been asked when the next ordering window will open for Years 7 and 8; this will open this week. I will inform parents of other year groups later this term when their ordering window opens before the phased roll out in January 2019. During our training days, at the beginning of this term, the staff received training on using BYOD and students will see them in use in a few weeks time.

I would like to conclude by congratulating our Year 11 and Year 13 students on their results. A fantastic 80% of our students are now pursuing their studies at university – please see the graphs below for a summary of results.
At GCSE we saw some of the best results in recent years and Year 11 had a significant increase in the number of students achieving the English Baccalaureate. Rickmansworth School can proudly claim to be one of the highest achieving in the Hertfordshire.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Douglas
Headteacher