COPTHORNE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

04 December 2018

Dear Year 7 & 8 Parents

Changes to our Assessment and Reporting arrangements

As many of you are aware, Senior Schools are administering their entry assessments much earlier than ever before (now usually in Year 6), so by the time children get into Year 7 and 8 at Copthorne, many have already secured a deferred entry place at the Senior School of their choice. To put this into context, almost 90% of our current Year 8 children have guaranteed places at Senior Schools that are not dependent on Common Entrance examination results.

Given this change in the expectations demanded from Year 7 & 8 children, and the arrival of Mr Nathan Close (Deputy Head/Director of Teaching and Learning) with his wealth of experience of ISEB Pre-testing, Common Entrance (CE)/Common Academic Scholarship (CAS) testing, we have made some changes to our assessment and reporting procedures.

Year 7 & 8 children will still receive half-termly assessment grades – initially just a grade describing their "attitude to learning" in October, with a subsequent grade for "achievement" added in December and thereafter, plus a comprehensive written report at the end of the summer term in July.

Year 8 children will have formal CE/CAS exams in November, March and May. Year 7 children will have appropriate exams in March and May. Results will be sent formally to parents after each set of exams.

Year 7 & 8 Parents' Evenings will be held after the exams in March, and the **Year 8 Parents' Evening currently scheduled for December 4th will be cancelled.**

Whilst in effect, this revised arrangement means a reduction in formal Parents' Evenings, (and 6 minutes less conversation per subject with staff), the outcome will be more meaningful discussions about learning and progress based on half a years teaching and mid-year exams, and is more similar to the experience children and parents will receive at Senior School. Staff will also be encouraged to communicate more readily both good and less good examples of children's work/attitudes so there should still be no surprises at Parents' Evenings or regular half term/end of term assessments. Parents too, are encouraged to email staff with concerns at any stage, rather than wait for the formal Parents' Evening. All staff, including Mr Close and I are available at any stage (by appointment) to discuss concerns.

The dates for your diaries for these formal Parents' Evenings in March 2019 (starting from 6.00pm) are as follows.
Year 7 LC – Wednesday 6th March
Year 7 IP – Tuesday 12th March
Year 8 (both classes, with children expected to attend) – Monday 18th March

As always, please do get back to Mr Close or me if you wish to discuss any aspects of your child's education at Copthorne.

Best wishes

C Jones
Headmaster