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- Head Teacher Paddy Cassidy MA (Oxon), NPQH



2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you, and your families, are well.

This week we are welcoming our new Year 7 cohort into school for two transition days as they start their secondary education at The Garibaldi School. It was wonderful to meet them and their families on Tuesday at our Transition Evening and start to welcome them to the Garibaldi community.

Over the next few weeks there are lots of opportunities to celebrate the fantastic work that students have done over this academic year. We are ending the year in a positive position and I want to thank you, parents and carers, for your support in helping us achieve this.

#### **Student and Parent Survey**

We were pleased to receive the results of the 2025 Student Survey where around 900 students had the opportunity to share their views about the school. The results have been very useful in helping us to plan for the next academic year and I wanted to share some highlights with you.

Things that students felt were going well include:

- There are more enrichment opportunities in school than were in place previously.
- Students feel safe in school, know which adults to speak to and report that bullying is rare and dealt with quickly.
- Behaviour has improved at school and students understand new rules have been introduced to improve their behaviour.
- Students have positive and respectful relationships with staff.

There were some areas that students wanted us to work on which included:

- Students would like to better understand why they are learning certain topics and how these topics have been chosen.
- Students want even more opportunities to learn about careers and opportunities for their futures.
- Students in exam years (Year 11 and 13) felt that there are times in the year when there is too much work.

We are now asking for feedback from parents in our **Parent Survey 2025**; to take part in the survey please click this link. The survey is open until 11 July 2025.

#### Warmer weather

A reminder that for the rest of this term we have our Summer Rules in place which means students do not need to be wearing their blazers around school. They should still bring them with them to avoid blazers being lost after not being worn for an extended period of time.

In exceptionally warm weather there are further adjustments that we make which include:

- Students taking off ties and undoing top buttons in warm classrooms.
- Making full use of the classrooms and indoor spaces that are air conditioned. This includes moving classes to cooler rooms where possible.
- Indoor spaces which are cooler are open at break and lunch for students to access.
- Changes to the activities students are doing, particularly in practical subjects.



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Please do remind your child(ren) to bring a water bottle with them to school which can be refilled throughout the day.

# **Road Safety**

We have been highlighting the importance of road safety around school in assemblies and Development Time in recent weeks. We have highlighted the importance of taking care when riding bikes (including wearing helmets) and taking care when crossing roads. We have also explained that when students leave school they shouldn't wait in large groups because this can block pavements and create issues for other road users.

Please could you take the time to reiterate these messages at home so that all of our students are getting to and from school safely.

# Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance and encouraging your child(ren) to be in school every single day.

Please continue to ensure that your child is in school, on time, every day as we come to the final three weeks of the academic year. We don't want any of our students to miss out on vital learning and experiences over the next few weeks.

### **Reminder: Uniform and equipment**

Please see below for a reminder of the uniform and equipment changes that are in place **from September** 2025:

- If a student chooses to wear a skirt it will need to be a plain black pleated skirt which is no more than
  5cm above the knee. Pencil style, tight fitting, stretch/lycra material skirts are not permitted. Plain black tights must be worn with a skirt, no socks or patterned tights.
- Students will need to have a bag which can carry A4 sized books and folders so that exercise books and resources can be brought home.
- As a minimum, students will need the following equipment with them in a pencil case:
  - o 2 black pens
  - o 1 red pen
  - o 1 pencil
  - o 1 ruler
  - o 1 rubber

Please do make sure that you check the <u>uniform page</u> of our website before purchasing any uniform items so they comply with our policy.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cassidy Head Teacher