



The Gryphon School

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September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

Once again we have had a very positive start to the new school year. Our two Inset Days were highly constructive and enabled us to build links with colleagues in the other SAST schools. The first day back for students yesterday went very well – it was a privilege to greet the students who were unfailingly smiling, positive and smartly dressed!

As you will have seen in the local press, and on our website, we were delighted with the examination results received over the summer, but of course we are determined to do even better this year. As a quick summary:-

- At A level 9% of exams were graded A*, 32% A* or A and 79% A-C with a 99% pass rate.
- At GCSE the percentage of exams awarded level 7 or above (equivalent to the “old” A) was 25% - well above the national average and the average grade awarded for each exam was up on last year, again being above the national average.

Lots more detail about these results is available on our website. We are very proud of the achievements of all of our students and will be celebrating with them on Saturday 15th September at our Prizegiving in Sherborne Abbey. Please do come along and join us!

New Roles

There have been several changes in the leadership of the school.

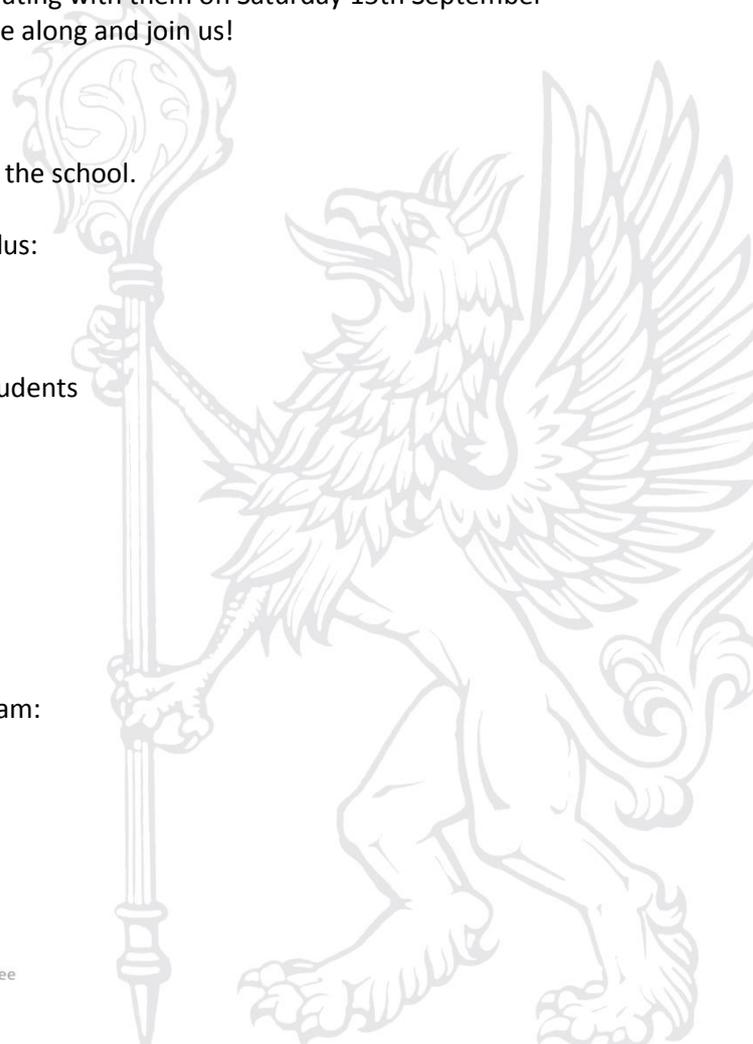
Our Senior Leadership Team now comprises myself plus:
Stuart Lawson – leading on standards and curriculum
Stephen Tuke – leading on teaching and learning
Nicky Dodgson – leading on pastoral and community
Sarah Darlington - leading on SEND and vulnerable students
Paul O'Donnell – Head of 6th Form

We also have new Heads of Department in:

Maths – Owain Price
ICT – Peter Williams
Photography – Nigel White
Psychology – Richard Gent

There have also been changes in our Head of Year Team:

Y7 – Ollie Wake
Y12 – Philippa Huggins



Communication

We really want to ensure that you can contact us easily and that you get regular updates about school life. Please make sure that we have your correct email address and mobile numbers. We will continue to send out regular Tweets, Facebook and Instagram posts as well as the colourful, termly newsletter that is now published on the website. At the beginning of every half term I will send a letter outlining recent updates. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

The Student Hub

You will have received details about our newly formed “Student Hub” which will deal with a range of issues. Our Student Support Managers will be based in the hub, their direct phone number is 01935 811082 or email studenthub@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk. To notify us if your child will be absent from school please call our attendance line on 01935 811081.

PTA

Nicky Dodgson leads our PTA – the focus for our PTA is school improvement rather than fundraising; we would like to hear your views on how to make The Gryphon even better. Please contact Nicky if you would like to be part of the PTA, her email address is nicola.dodgson@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

Uniform

Thank you for your support in smartening up our uniform. Please refer to our website for details and pictures if you are unsure as to what is acceptable in terms of trousers and skirts. If you are still in doubt please contact the tutor or Head of Year for your son/daughter.

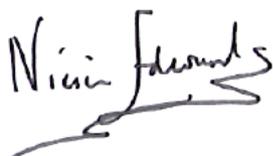
School Photos

Friday 14th September is school photo day. As always if you would like copies of your child’s school photo you will deal directly with the photo company via their website.

Our Aim for the School Year

We want to be sure that we really bring out the best in all of our students and staff this year. As well as excellent results we want to ensure that this is another 10:10 year – a year where everyone, students and staff, “lives life in all its fullness”. Excellent exams results, a rich curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities are key features of life at the Gryphon. This term we will be staging the musical “Grease”. Auditions for the production are next week and we look forward to the show in December.

Thank you for your on-going support for our school. I look forward to working with you this year.



Nicki Edwards
Headteacher

