

28<sup>TH</sup> MAY | 2021 |

## A SUMMER TERM LIKE NO OTHER!

What a year this has been so far! There have been challenges upon challenges this year. To name a few we've had a delayed start to the year, lockdown, masks, lateral flow testing, blended learning, handwash, one way systems, online lessons, in person catching up, and Easter study activities – and that was all before this term started! By far the biggest challenge has been how we can enable our young people to learn and be successful with all the interruptions and disruption. To this end I'd like to pay tribute to the resilience of our young people and staff in trying to cram in so much into a short time, and the extra hours they are putting in to achieve success for all. It is awesome to see the efforts being made, and we hope that all hard work will pay off when we look at the overall evidence for each candidate and course in our Senior school.





Well done to our young people, who are now in the middle of their assessments – we wish you well for the next week and a half! Remember that school is closed to students on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June so we can consider all your grades carefully.



Across SBC we will be giving out provisional grades on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. We do not yet know what any appeals system will look like but will inform you as soon as information is published.



"..I'd like to pay tribute to the resilience of our young people and staff."

## Finding our way through the storm

Sometimes a picture can say a thousand words! We were reflecting recently on this image – the first shafts of light coming out of the clouds, the sense of stormy waters which are just beginning to relent. Perhaps the sails are out and helping the ship press on again.

Like the sailors on this ship, I guess we will all need to be taking stock — weighing up the damage and checking



that everyone is OK after this difficult time. We have learnt things about ourselves and others, and at the right time, we will reflect and look back and be thankful at how we helped each other to keep going.

In school, we are committed to moving forwards together. We do this through two main aspects in school – though our learning and teaching, and in our commitment to health and wellbeing. We are currently picking up our plans from last year, dusting them off, and thinking again about the year to come. At the heart will be our commitment to helping our young people to make sense of what's happened and to be successful. After a long and extremely well deserved Summer holiday!

We are also looking forward to welcoming our new pupils and saying a warm farewell to those that are leaving. Unfortunately much of this activity has not been possible to do in person, but we will continue to be a warm, rich and challenging place for all our young people.



If you have not done so already, please download our Xpressions app from your app store. It is a really good tool for communication with us as a school.



We will be starting our new timetables on Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>. This gives just a short time for our Seniors to ensure that all courses are the right ones, and to make a start in new classes, until we break up on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.



