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NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

March 2015

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of CTC

There is a touch of spring sunshine and warmth here in the air at CTC today which makes a welcome change to the recent cold and perhaps might go some way to allaying the fears of our new students that England is always freezing. With the General Election about six weeks away things are hotting up politically too!

Oxbridge success

Since I last wrote, I can confirm that we have four Oxbridge offers – twice as many as in 2014. It is very difficult to get in and I fear that academic brilliance is not a guarantee of an offer. You might like to know that current Imperial College offers stand at A*A*A*: you cannot get any harder.

The term ahead

We are rapidly coming to the end of term. We have had our full mock examinations for our A2 and GCSE students, while our AS ones are also busy preparing for their examinations. There will be reports at the end of term too.

You know you can see how your son/daughter is getting on by accessing their progress via the Portal. If you don't have access details, please contact PortalAdmin@ctc.ac.uk

Next academic year

Those of you who follow the British education scene will know that in the recent past we had a very energetic Secretary of State (Michael Gove) in post and he pushed through a lot of structural and curriculum changes.

In the case of the latter, institutions have a load of new GCSE and A level courses to implement from September, although it might not surprise you to learn that a change in government (May election) might mean an alteration to these changes too!!

In essence the government wants to make our examination courses more demanding and one way they think they can do this is to re-introduce linear A levels, though the assessment model is still rather uncertain in the respect of whether or not students take AS level exams at the half way point of the two year course (and these would not count towards the final grade); some Universities want students to do so, while others are not so 'bothered'. It does not make decision-making very easy for us.

As a College, we will be making our decision soon and we will let you know for the future what we will be doing.

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Vision 2020

The Council (our governing body) recently agreed the vision for the College: Vision 2020.

The great news is that they have given the go ahead for a detailed feasibility study for the building of a new science centre. This is really exciting news and if all goes to plan – and there is *many a slip 'twixt cup and lip* – we might start building in early 2016. If we do build this centre, then we can put in place a lot of other changes around the College as well, and I am busy gathering both colleague and student opinion on the facilities they might like to see us having before 2020.

Fees from September

It is that time of year when decisions are made about fees for the next academic year. We are always mindful of the fees we charge and we strive hard to give excellent value for money. We would like to bring all fees 'in house' so that no student has to pay his/her own HomeStay accommodation charges; this will be done *centrally* by the College.

And finally...

CTC is a member of CIFE (Council for Independent Education) and for the first time they held an inter College quiz. I am very pleased to say that our team came second, by just one point! Knowledge of contemporary music let the team down...I blame Lady Gaga. Do have a look on the website for the story and some photos.

With every good wish

Mark Eagers
Principal