

May 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

### Looking forward to excellent examination results!

This term is an extremely busy term for us at Northfleet as we prepare for the final external examinations. I am enormously impressed with the students' attitude to work this year. It is wonderful to see so many of them making the most of exam preparation with a large number of boys waiting at the door at 7.15 for their early morning revision sessions and many not leaving until 6.00 in the evening. This shows the determination of our students to make sure that they *go beyond* to achieve the highest grades and that they have the best life chances. I would like to thank you, their parents, for continuing to support us - it is certainly not easy to get a 16 year old out of bed for revision and many of you are changing your busy routines to drive them to school. Predictions suggest that this year, our results will be the highest ever!

### Changes to final exams

We are mindful that this will be the last year before we start to see the centrally imposed changes starting to kick in. These will include the removal of the coursework element from most examinations and the change from a letter grading system at GCSE, to a number grading system. As a school, we are working hard to prepare for these changes and we will be making sure that students and parents are aware of the new requirements early next year.

### A highly prestigious Sixth Form!

I am very pleased to announce that Northfleet Technology College has been awarded IB World School status. IB stands for International Baccalaureate and is a foundation offering highly respected programmes of international education that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. Our school has been authorised to offer the IBCP (International Baccalaureate Careers-Related Programme) in the Sixth Form. This is a very new and prestigious programme which we have been offering for a number of years under the umbrella of Dane Court Grammar School. We are one of the first Secondary Schools in the country to have been accepted to offer this award that started as a pilot in Kent. Having achieved this status in our own right means that we can offer an increased number of courses to our students to ensure that they are able to compete in a world market. We will also be able to support other local Secondary Schools who wish to improve their Sixth Form offer by including this award to ensure every young Gravesham person has the opportunity to achieve their best.

### Keeping our children safe

In my conversations with other Headteachers, we are becoming more concerned about how our children behave online. We are all having to deal with more incidents of our students posting inappropriate content on the internet. Even though we constantly warn them of the dangers, some still do not fully understand the implications for themselves and their futures. Many employers now carry out online searches before they appoint. Let's all work together to make

sure no NTC student has a moment of madness which affects their life chances. If you have any concerns about keeping your child safe, please contact the school and ask for advice from Mr Jones.

### **Summer Uniform**

As always in Term 6, if the weather is forecast to be hot, we allow students to leave their blazers at home. Please be aware that if they bring in a coat or jacket they are expected to have their blazers too. Ties should always be worn.

I hope that you all have a good bank holiday and join with me in wishing the students taking external examinations this summer all the very best.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a vertical line, representing the name Jane Partridge.

**Jane Partridge**  
**Headteacher**