



# Emmanuel College

7 September 2018

Dear Parents

## **Welcome and Important Updates from the Principal**

May I begin by wishing all of you well at the start of this new academic year. It has been a pleasure to welcome students into college this week and a particular joy to welcome those who are joining our college this September, whether that is in Year 7 or in other year groups.

### **Forthcoming events**

We have two events next week that I would like to draw your attention to at the outset. On Tuesday 11 September we meet as we have done for the last year or so, at the start of every term, for College Prayers. This event takes place from 5:30pm to 6:00pm in the main hall and all students, staff, parents and supporters are welcome. We shall sing together, be led in prayer and on this occasion will be joined by Mr Jim Cockburn, former head teacher and member of the local governing body who will speak to us. The event promises to be a great way to begin this academic year and I look forward to seeing many of you there. On Wednesday we have our Year 7 "Pathways" Evening at 7:00pm in college which is for parents and carers but not students. The event is a key event in our programme of transition for those moving to Emmanuel from primary school and as a result, attendance by at least one parent, carer or other adult representative is essential. The event should last for approximately one hour.

### **New staff**

It was a privilege to be able to introduce some of our new staff to students on Tuesday morning and share with them my confidence in the ability and commitment of these individuals. Some of the staff have been recruited to enable the moderate growth in student numbers that we have committed to while some take up posts made vacant by those leaving last year. Dr Douglas joins the Science Department following Mrs Kirby's departure with Miss Welfare also joining the team to further strengthen our Science Department. Mrs Harbisher joins in the English Department following Mr Oughton's move to the RE Department which has been made necessary due to increased student numbers, while Miss Naylor also joins the English Department following Mrs R Scott's decision to take up a promoted position elsewhere. Mr Hirst in the Science Department has been appointed to take on Mrs Scott's responsibilities in the Teaching and Learning Team as Lead Practitioner. Mrs Hamill has joined us as teacher of Technology following Mr Peterson's departure with Miss Smith also joining the team to facilitate growth in this central area of the college curriculum. Mr Wood takes up a part time post in Technology to allow Mr Hagon to reduce his hours. In History we welcome Miss Wilson who takes up a new post in the department required as a result of increased student numbers and Miss Short who is looking after Mrs Hogg's classes during her maternity leave. Mrs Dueck will now not be returning to Emmanuel and as such Mrs Wells has enthusiastically agreed to take on leadership of both Music and Drama. It has been a pleasure to invite Mr Hodgson to join the Music Department as Teacher of Music alongside Mrs Bourn who, I'm delighted to announce will now be teaching full time within the department. They are joined by Mrs Amorino who will teach flute alongside working with some of our more experienced musicians. Mr A Lawrence joins the mathematics department following Mrs Ingham's departure, Mrs Leigh (nee Webster) who trained with us last year, joins the geography department in a new role required due to an increase in student numbers while Ms Roxby

joins us as teacher of Latin following Mrs Miller's departure. Mrs Jones has taken up her new role as our new Business and Finance Manager. We also have an outstanding group of School Direct trainees based at Emmanuel this year who many of your children will meet in due course as they begin to support learning across the college and, in the spring, take on teaching responsibilities. It might be that you would like to put faces to names for all of our staff which you can now do on the school website here <http://www.emmanuelcollege.org.uk/parents/meet-the-staff/>

### **Arrangements before and after college**

It is inevitable that at the start of the new year there should be some confusion about arrangements at the end of the school day. Allow me to clarify the rules that we have in place to ensure that all students, road users and local residents are as safe as possible. We ask that parents do not park in the area around college indicated in red shading on the map below and that any parents who wish to collect children by car do so by using the Watergate Car Park, marked with a green star on the map below. Students can leave college using one of the two pedestrian entrances marked as green dots on the map but must walk northwards towards Lobley Hill and as our Student Code of Conduct states students must only cross the roads around college (Consett Road and Whickham Highway) at the traffic lights (in the area shaded green on the map below). Students are not permitted to walk across the main entrance to college (marked with a thick red line on the map below) and may only use the gate to the lower car park if they have been issued with a pass (marked with a dotted red line). Cars are not allowed into the turning circle until after the buses have left (usually at 4:10pm). I would ask that parents do not wait on the road or in the entrance to college until this time as this, in our assessment and that of the police, increases the risk of a road traffic incident on Consett Road.



### **Code of conduct**

At this time, it may also be valuable to look again with your child at our Student Code of Conduct. This document that can be found here <http://www.emmanuelcollege.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> provides clarity as to expectations and consequences and is key to ensuring that all students are able to thrive during their time at Emmanuel.

### **New facilities and ongoing investment**

During the summer, our facilities team supported at times by external contractors, have carried out a massive volume of work as part of our ongoing programme of the refurbishment of our building. Visitors to Emmanuel often comment on the quality of our facilities, particularly given that most of the building is now 30 years old, but this of course is the result of a carefully planned programme of maintenance and investment as well as the high standards of conduct that we expect from our students. We want our students to thrive in the best possible environment and as such will continue to seek to ensure our facilities are the very best we can provide with the resources we have.

This summer, we have refurbished classrooms 8 – 12 and the open area onto which they open, providing a new RE department area which has in turn allowed for additional English, Geography and History classrooms. We have begun a programme of refurbishment in Technology alongside purchasing, with the help of Friends of Emmanuel, state of the art manufacturing equipment. We have enlarged and improved the Art Open Area and have remodelled and refurbished the upstairs and downstairs toilets opposite the Lecture Theatre. We have further invested in sports facilities providing a new high quality surface on the MUGA, a new surface on the Granary Yard and new bikes and treadmills in the Cardio Room. [Click here](#) to see photos that will give you a flavour of the work that has been completed.

Work has begun to improve security at our main entrance while also carrying out much needed refurbishment of this area. This will be completed over the coming weeks. We are also expecting a delivery of three new minibuses in the next few days which will enable us to retire the current vehicles which have served the college over the last ten years.

Allow me to wish you to every success in the coming year which, whilst challenging, promises to be rewarding for our students.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Waterfield  
**Principal**