



May 2020

Dear Students,

Re: Sixth Form Update

Today, we want to update you on plans for Warlingham Sixth Form College and seek your opinions and ideas in order to make improvements to the school which will benefit students now and in the future. In order to do this effectively, we have to know and understand what you, our students, want and need to succeed.

A few weeks ago, although it seems much longer, we asked to meet with two groups of current Sixth Form students. The purpose of these meetings was to try and understand what are the best things about being in our Sixth Form and what would make it even better.

We asked you about your studies, the support you receive and the opportunities you have in Sixth Form and about the space you currently occupy and if this meets your needs. We were really impressed by your honesty and openness in these discussions and we learnt a huge amount from talking and listening to you.

Since then the world has changed dramatically and you are now part of a moment in history that is likely to redefine the way we live, the way we work and the way we study in the future. We know many of you must feel cheated and upset that you have lost precious time of your school and Sixth Form experience. Exams you were studying hard for are unable to happen and you are left with uncertainties about what this will mean for you. Please be reassured that your teachers are doing everything possible to provide the fairest of systems which will reflect your efforts and hard work. They are also working hard to support you over the coming weeks and months and providing the best they can in difficult circumstances to support your learning at home at this time.

Over the last few weeks, we have also been working hard to try to make the changes you asked for when we met with you. From those meetings we took away a list of requirements that you felt would improve your Sixth Form for you and for future year groups.

Some of these were specifically about the Sixth Form building, you were keen to see:

- Improved space to work, a Sixth Form building which you can be proud of and which meets your study and your social needs
- A common room that allows you to have defined space for eating and socialising, which is light and airy and flows through to outdoor space which is just for you
- An area to eat which is either a servery with an offer and choice of food or a space where you can prepare and eat food easily
- Study areas which allow you to work in a variety of ways, independently, in pairs or small groups without disturbing others
- An environment which feels more like a college or university
- IT facilities which are faster and more reliable

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Tandridge   
Learning Trust

We are working on all aspects of this and we have some exciting news to share. We took your requests and ideas to three different companies and asked them to put some designs together for us. The best of these, we would now like to share with you and work with you to adapt and shape the final look we will create. We now need your further input and help in the next week or two to action this as quickly as possible so the Sixth Form you deserve will be ready by the summer.

Mr Scott and the Sixth Form team will be asking groups of students to be involved in this as an online discussion with the designers and to represent your year groups in developing something for you all, not just current Sixth Formers but representatives from Y10 and Y11 too, who will be joining the Sixth Form over the next two years. Some of you may have already been approached about this.

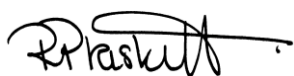
We are very excited by the plans and we hope you will be too. As we are limited in the number of students we can practically invite for an online discussion, we also wanted to allow students not involved in this part of the process the opportunity to input their ideas and opinions too. As such, we would love you to go onto the school website and view the plans as they are developed. A link will be created via the Sixth Form area when we can share these with you. Please look out for this in the next few days and we will welcome your feedback.

Once you have seen the development outline and updates, please email your thoughts and opinions into [c.beadle@warlinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:c.beadle@warlinghamschool.co.uk) by no later than 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 so they can be incorporated into the final decisions. We can then action the refurbishment to begin.

Further work is also underway to improve other aspects of the Sixth Form experience, including a complete review of what was the Graduation Programme. We are working to make this an exciting offer which will provide greater opportunities for Sixth Form students to make a difference in the world. From leadership and entrepreneurship opportunities to certified courses which will enhance your skills and employability. We want our offer to be different, exciting and relevant to you.

We know these are hard times currently but we hope this letter provides you with excitement for the future and an opportunity to be involved in the development of something really special.

Kind regards



Rebecca Plaskitt  
CEO Tandridge Learning Trust



Paul Kinder  
Head of Lower School



Steve Day  
Head of Upper School