



# CATOR PARK SCHOOL

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**Ms M Davies BA (Hons) NPQH**  
Headteacher

Date: September 2009  
Ref: DV.zk\_Autumn-Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year, and welcome to all of you who are new to our Cator Park community. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year 7 welcome meeting last week. Your daughters seem to have settled in well. Older students have been really helpful to the younger girls and can often be seen helping them find their lessons. Auditions have already being held for the Year 7 Oliver production and our extra-curricular clubs are well underway. We are looking forward to seeing some exciting productions this year.

We are also delighted to see so many familiar faces in our increasingly popular sixth form. We have received a record number of external applications too, so news of our outstanding teaching in this area is travelling fast and all the young people are enjoying the refurbished facilities which make our common room one of the largest and most well-appointed in Bromley.

We have begun the new academic year with some excellent news. Last weekend, two of our students, Shannon Stride (Year 9) and Aine Hurlock (Year 8), won medals at a National Athletics Tournament. Read the details of their success in the next Newsletter.

- **Examinations Update**

You may have already heard about our very pleasing examination results this summer. Our GCSE results have continued to improve and were the best this truly comprehensive school has ever had. At GCSE our 5+A\*-C grades have improved for the sixth year running to 63%. This is without using multi-award courses to boost our figures. Crucially, our results including the all important Mathematics and English are now comfortably above the National Average for all schools, including grammar and other selective schools. The percentage of students achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades in GCSE including Mathematics and English has more than doubled over the past six years. Two of our students, *Mithunaa Nuges and Emma-Jo Pratt*, achieved 12 A\*s and 9 A grades between them. *Fay Simpkins* achieved 6 A\*s, 3 As and 2Bs, *Rebecca Try* achieved 3 A\*s, 6 As and 3 Bs and *Scarlett Gurnham* achieved 2 A\*s, 6 As and 3 Bs.

Our 'A' Level results were again excellent and our overall performance at 'A' level over the past three years places us in the top 25% of all institutions in terms of progress. Congratulations all round! We are extremely proud of all of our students, our teachers and you, for all your support and hard work.

- **Catering**

The girls are now passing through the servery much quicker at lunchtime and many are loading their cards early in the morning and after school to avoid queues. You can also help your daughter by sending in cheques made payable to Principal Catering. Our caterers will be writing to you shortly with details of their Healthy Eating menus and how you can contact them ([catering@pc-fare.co.uk](mailto:catering@pc-fare.co.uk), Principals Catering, 321 Upper Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3QP, telephone: 020 8663 6686) with queries and requests for a breakdown of what your daughter has been purchasing in school.



**A Foundation School and Harris Centre of Excellence**

Students who were eligible for Free School Meals last year are likely to be eligible this year too but a new form has to be completed annually. Some students may now be eligible due to a change in home circumstances. Application forms are available at Student Reception or can be requested via the School Office where a member of staff will be happy to explain the application process if you feel you may be entitled to claim.

- **Road Safety**

If you arrange to pick up your daughter at the end of the day, please avoid parking in Aldersmead Road as the area is very busy with traffic coming in both directions. Our Community Police Officers are usually always available at the end of the day to assist with the flow of traffic but please do not make their job more difficult by driving or parking in Aldersmead Road!

- **Uniform**

A huge thank you to parents and carers for getting organised with uniform - your daughters look very smart indeed, especially Years 7-9, who wear the full new uniform, which includes the blazer with the kilt. If you are unsure whether an item of uniform is permitted or not, please consult our policy which is on our website at [www.catorpark.bromley.sch.uk](http://www.catorpark.bromley.sch.uk) or ring the School Office directly.

We are already gathering a large number of lost property items which students are not claiming. To address this, lost property will be displayed half-termly for students to look at. If items are not claimed they will then be recycled or disposed of. Many items were left in lockers at the end of the last academic year – please contact Student Reception if your daughter has left possessions in her old locker.

- **On-Line Data Access**

Please note that you will shortly be issued with new contact details to enable you to have exclusive access to your daughter's academic and general progress records online at any time. For reasons of security, all last year's access codes have changed. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Keane, Deputy Head. Parents of students in Year 7 are also able to access their daughter's progress on the Accelerated Reader Scheme. For further details on this, please contact our coordinator, Ms Faulkner.

- **Communication**

If you do need to get in touch with us, and we do welcome your contact, then use your daughter's School Planner to communicate with the school. You can also use the school email. Your daughter's tutor is your first port of call as he or she will know your daughter best of all. For more serious matters, please arrange to speak to your daughter's Head of Year. If the Head of Year is unavailable, then you will be referred to either Mrs Murray (Key Stage 3 Director) or Ms Roskell (Key Stages 4 and 5).

For students in Years 8 – 13, we have attached a copy of the personal information that we have on file. Please would you check these details very carefully and inform the School Office immediately of any amendments which need to be made. It is extremely important that we have accurate information to enable us to contact you in case of emergencies.

- **Holiday Requests**

As you are already aware from previous letters, we discourage the taking of family holidays during term time. While a parent may request a holiday, authorisation is legally at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Your daughter's education is of paramount importance to us and if your daughter already has a poor attendance record, **any** absence during term time will not be permitted.

Regarding medical and dental appointments, we would encourage you to arrange such appointments out of school hours or during the school holidays whenever possible, should your daughter need to leave school at any time during the school day, she must obtain permission from her Head of Year who will countersign notes from home.

Finally, I look forward to working with you closely once more this year and to meeting you at one of our school events. I also wish your daughter (or son, if in the sixth form) a very successful and happy academic year with us.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Davies  
Headteacher

**Email contact details:**

**School Office / Office Manager**  
**Senior Administrator to Leadership Team**  
**Head Teacher's PA**  
**Mr Keane, Deputy Head Curriculum**  
**Mrs Hay, Deputy Head Student Development**  
**Mrs Murray, Head of KS3**  
**Ms Roskell, Head of KS3 & 4**  
**Ms Griffiths, Head of Year 7**  
**Mrs Buckhurst, Head of Year 8**  
**Mrs Blunden, Head of Year 9, Gifted & Talented**  
**Mrs Chapman, Head of Year 10**  
**Ms Suffling, Head of Year 11**  
**Mrs Harris, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form**  
**Ms Faulkner, Accelerated Reading**

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**Principals Catering:**

[catering@pc-fare.co.uk](mailto:catering@pc-fare.co.uk)  
([www.principals-catering.com](http://www.principals-catering.com))

## Dates for your diary:

Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup> September	Presentation Evening
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Internet Safety For Parents (6.30 pm) immediately followed by the Friends of Cator Park School AGM
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> October	Prospective Parents Evening ( <b>Early Closure</b> )
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Staff Training Day – Students do not attend school
Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Prospective Parents' Open Morning (9.30 – 11.00 am)
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> October	Prospective Parents' Open Morning (9.30 – 10.30 am)
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> October	Prospective Parents' Open Morning (9.30 – 10.30 am)
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 Tea Party 
<del>Wednesday</del>	<del>21<sup>st</sup> October</del>	<del>Year 11 Consultation Evening</del>
Thursday	22 <sup>nd</sup> October	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Opening Evening (for Year 11 Options)
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Clocks fall back by one hour</b>
Monday – Friday	26 <sup>th</sup> October – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	<b>WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS</b> 
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> November	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Speed Interviewing Event (6.30 pm)
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> November	Staff Training Day – Students do not attend school
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup> November	Autumn Music Evening
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Consultation Evening
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> November	Numeracy and Literacy Evening (7.00 pm)
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Jack Petchey Celebration Evening
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Academic Target Setting Day</b>
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup> December	Performing Arts Club Performance
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>END OF TERM (12.05 pm)</b>