

**9 September 2016**

Dear Parents/Carers

We were delighted to receive your daughters and sons back at the start of the new academic year. In Year 7, we welcomed our new intake of St Julie's students. Following the record oversubscription for places at St Julie's we were delighted that the Archdiocese recommended that we accept an additional 14 students into Year 7. We have also welcomed many of our Year 11 students back into Sixth Form following fantastic GCSE results. They are confident of success, having also seen the excellent A-Level results.

On 18 August 2016, students in Year 13 received their A-Level and BTEC results. It was another year of excellent results that led to positive value added scores for both A-Level and Level-3 BTEC courses, meaning that students in the Sixth Form at St Julie's make better progress than students nationally who start with similar prior attainment. As stated, results were above national average for the value added to the students' results, and courses in the Science, English, and Social Studies departments, produced results that were either in the top 10% or top 25% of schools nationally. This enabled students to go on to their chosen next steps, whether that be university, a career, or apprenticeships. Indeed, 92% of students moving on to university were able to access the Degree course at their chosen university. Students have gone on to study at universities across the country in courses such as Physics, Physiotherapy, Mathematics, Law, Sociology, English Literature, Drama and Teaching, to name but a few. We were similarly delighted with the results of our Year 11 students, on GCSE results day, on 25 August 2016. Despite the national trend of decreasing success at GCSE, there were strong improvements across the board at St Julie's, 80% of students achieved A\*-C grade in English, and 70% in Maths. Both figures are significantly above the national average. Additionally, the new measure for school performance, Progress8, which takes into account how much progress students of all abilities have made during their time at St Julie's, showed a positive residual. This means that not only are our most able students being stretched and challenged to achieve the best that they can, but staff in school ensure children of all abilities are pushed on to the next level to be the best they can be.

If you have been anywhere near school during the summer holidays, you would have seen the steel structures of our new school rising up out of the ground. Of the three blocks that will form the new school, the steel frame is complete for the largest block, and the frame for the second block is well underway. This means that we are well underway with the new build, and on target to open our new school in September 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the construction staff of KIER Construction on how well they have managed their work so far with no disruption to the children's education.

On a technical matter, schools are required to advise parents/carers of our responsibilities to hold data on young people, and who they may share that with. This is outlined in our Privacy Notice which can be found in the 'parents' section on our school website.

At the start of the last year in our current school, can I wish your children every success with their studies and examinations, and thank you for your continued support for the work that staff do within the school.

Yours sincerely



**Mr T Alderman**  
**Headteacher**