



# OUR LADY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL

Issue No. 449

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed a very smooth start to the new school year and students and staff are all hard at work. Over the next three weeks we will be inviting parents considering a place in Year 7 for their daughter from next September to tour the school in our Open Mornings (9am – 10.30am), I am sure they will be pleased with what they see!

## **Open Evening – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 4pm – 7pm**

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September we will have a slightly different timetable: Periods 1 to 4 will take place as usual but will be 50 minutes long, school will **finish at 12.45pm** and students will be dismissed home. Those eligible for Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch as they leave. Staff will then prepare the school for the Open Evening commencing at 4pm, and many students will return by 3.45pm to assist with departmental activities in the evening. If your daughter is requested to attend, you will receive a permission letter from the department in which she is helping.

## **Open House London 2015 – message from Dr Blackwell**

The school is participating in the Open House event again this year. We will be open on Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12.30 pm. There will be guided tours on a first come basis with queuing outside if necessary.

## **Absence during term-time – a reminder**

There have been several high profile cases regarding parents taking their child on holiday during term time. The law relating to this was introduced in September 2013 and states that::

*Headteachers would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional. Therefore Headteachers will only be able to grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and this will still be at the discretion of the Headteacher.*

*No parent/carer can demand leave of absence as of right. The Education Regulations state that applications must be made in advance by a parent/carer with whom the child lives and can only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances.*

Please ensure that any such requests are made, in writing, to the Headteacher well in advance of the proposed absence.

## **Punctuality detentions – message from Dr Blackwell**

We are still working to improve our punctuality record so that every week can be at least as good as this weeks (see overleaf). This year, we are continuing with our sanction of a Saturday morning detention for students who are persistently late to school. These detentions will only occur once in each half term and they will only be used as a sanction against exceptionally poor punctuality, so we are anticipating very few students will ever need to attend but it is there to act as a deterrent and encourage better timekeeping. Parents will be given sufficient notice.

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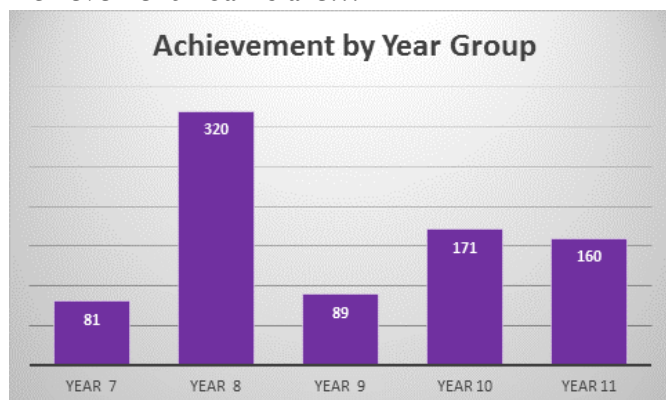
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Headteacher : Mrs Jane Gray



### Recognising Achievement – update from Mr Smith, Assistant Headteacher

Certificates from Form Tutors; Postcards from Heads of Year; Letters from the Head Teacher; and Lunch with a School Governor! It can only mean that we've introduced changes to the way we recognise and reward the positive behaviour and wider contribution our girls make to the school during their time with us. The single biggest change we've made is recording all the students' achievement points electronically. This means that we will now have a more accurate record of the positive contribution our girls make to the school. In turn this will allow us to recognise which students' achievements need to be rewarded and opens up to us the opportunity to reward girls in ways that we haven't done before. And in an age when electronic communication is fast becoming the norm, how refreshing it will be to receive a letter from one of the school leaders praising your daughter for her achievements. Better still how many of us have been treated to lunch by someone involved in the governance of public institution. These are the rewards your daughter could enjoy if she receives enough achievement points to merit that level of reward. She may also receive the Student of the Month award for her Year or indeed her Form depending on how many achievement points she has received in comparison to the others in her Form and Year. Please do ask your daughter how many achievement points she has and do take a look at the table we will publish in the newsletter each week which shows how many achievement points each year group has. Finally, ask your daughter what the Year Achievement Boards are...



### Attendance and Punctuality – Information from Dr Blackwell

The table below shows the Form within each year group achieving the best attendance and the form achieving the best punctuality for the week ending 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

	Attendance		Punctuality	
	Form	%	Form	%
Year 7	7J	99.6	7P	99.4
Year 8	8J	98.1	8M,P	99.7
Year 9	9H	99.4	9H	99.4
Year 10	10J	99.0	10H	99.7
Year 11	11J	99.3	11M	98.9

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Jane Gray  
Head Teacher