



## Abbey Gate College

11 May 2022

Dear Parents

While we all wait for the report on our recent Focused Compliance and Educational Quality inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, ISI, who are authorised by and accountable to the Department for Education, it feels timely to share our headline educational priorities with you, as we openly talked through with our visiting inspectors.

In the autumn term, our discussions with staff, pupils, and Governors started with the 'Why'. From these, as you may remember, came a re-fresh of our College's stated Vision, Mission, and Aims; including a definition of our educational purpose around the 3 pillars of: Self, Service, and Sustainability.

Nothing about these outcomes was superficial or purely presentational. Our intentions throughout were to consider in depth: the reasons for the College's remarkable foundation in the late 1970's; its strong growth and evolution since then; its uniqueness and well-deserved reputation in the region; and how Abbey Gate would continue to thrive and shape future generations of young people for a 21<sup>st</sup> century that manages to surprise us all with each passing year.

Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted: "Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education", and this belief sits firmly within our College's foundation stones, as over the years we welcome, value, nurture, and inspire each individual pupil to become the best that they can be, in themselves and also for the benefit of others and the world at large.

As our spring term arrived, we turned our collective focus to more specific goals, agreeing on 5 of equal weighting for the months immediately ahead of us. These were, and are:

- Develop further our SAFE SCHOOL, including the emotional and physical safety for all of our pupils and staff: specifically within our COVID-context, but also enabling evolved procedures for disclosures, sharing, and behaviour management.
- Develop further CONTEXTUAL WELLBEING, from specific, professional counselling expertise and mental health support, to integrated ways of being, working, and learning each day.

### Abbey Gate College

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- Develop further STUDENT AGENCY in both academic learning and personal development, with specific focus on: feedback, formative assessment & metacognition; as well as Student Voice and leadership responsibilities.
- Develop further HIGHER ORDER pedagogical practice in lessons, enabling a variety of effective 'stretch & challenge' for all pupils, including specific provision for those identified as More Able, Gifted & Talented.
- Develop further DIGITAL INNOVATION for all pupils and staff, to maximise the effectiveness of remote/blended/hybrid teaching & learning, as well as the use of personal devices in lessons.

Every week, we review the progress we are making in each of these areas – strengthening, improving, evolving, and innovating wherever we can. To quote the American adventurer, Daniel Boone: “Having an exciting destination is like setting a needle in your compass. From then on, the compass knows only one point – its ideal. And it will faithfully guide you there through the darkest nights and fiercest storms.”

At a time in all our lives of heightened psychological anxieties and uncertainties, prompting the need for us, as humans, to re-affirm ourselves and re-set our communities; it is important that Abbey Gate College is clear about where we are heading – for all of our pupils, our staff, and yourselves as parents. We have set our compass. We move forward with courage, compassion, and purpose.

With every kind regard and thanks for your continued support

Craig Jenkinson  
Head