



GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

Specialist Music College

Headteacher: Peter Costello MA

Patron: Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

Choral Patron: Howard Goodall



music colleges

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Dear Parents

I am writing to let you know that Guildford County School has been invited by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust to apply to become a “high performing specialist school” by adopting a second specialism in addition to its status as a Music College. The school has decided to take up this challenge and seek to add mathematics and computing as its second specialism, with a particular focus on mathematics.

While continuing to be a music college, this would allow Guildford County to develop its mathematics department, both for the benefit of its own students and to spread good practice to other schools in the area – making County a “beacon” of mathematics teaching. Worth £250,000 over three to four years, the programme would help the school to recruit and retain good teachers in a “shortage subject”, and to work with neighbouring schools to develop a strong mathematics curriculum. The funding is split about half and half between developing our own school and helping others. The additional funding would allow us to ensure that teacher time spent outside the school would not be at the cost of our own teaching.

The school already achieves impressive results in mathematics at GCSE, with 76% of students gaining grade C or above last year, and at A Level, where 22 students of 25 gained A and B grades.

The mathematics department has already re-written schemes of work for the new national curriculum. We are keen to develop this expertise further, and Mark Cheesman, Director of Mathematics is very excited about the possibilities for further strengthening the department.

I should emphasise that Guildford County will continue to have music as its main specialism, but adding this second specialism will really help us move forward as a school. Mathematics is already one of our strongest departments, and there are also interesting relationships between mathematics and music which we will be able to explore.

We expect to hear early in 2009 whether our application has been successful.

Yours sincerely

Peter Costello
Headteacher

