



GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

Specialist Music College

Headteacher: Peter Costello MA

Patron: Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM



music colleges

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Dear Parents

Securing our Possessions

For some time we have been concerned about our provision for the secure storage of students' belongings, about the dangers to health and safety posed by bags left in corridors, and by crowding in already narrow corridors which is exacerbated by the presence of lockers. The same concerns have been expressed from time to time by students themselves and by parents.

After considerable planning, we have been able to introduce new arrangements for September which will provide far greater security, remove the health and safety risk, and improve the environment in school. All lockers will be removed from classrooms and corridors, and a room in B Block will be converted for use as a locker room. All old lockers will be replaced by new, double strength ones with anti-bacterial coating on the doors and frames. The locker room will be secure, only accessible at certain times of the day. Staff will be present on duty and CCTV installed to monitor behaviour in this area. Sixth Form lockers will remain in the Sixth Form Centre, and arrangements for using them will remain the same as at present.

It is in everyone's interests that bags are not left loose around the school, and that valuable possessions are kept in a safe place. Accordingly, we intend to make the use of a locker compulsory for all students in Years 7 to 11 with effect from September. Lockers will be allocated to all students, and keys issued through their tutors over the first weeks of term.

This is a large and expensive project, only made possible by the efforts of the Friends of the School, who have raised almost £7,500 towards the cost, and by generous donations from many parents for improving the environment and facilities. Even so, we fell a little short, and have also found money from school funds to support this initiative. We also need to plan a programme of rolling repair and replacement, and to maintain the area as a clean, safe and secure environment.

A new scale of charges will therefore apply from September. The rental charge for a locker will be £5 per academic year, and the refundable deposit scheme will be dropped. The new scale of charges will apply to all students, with allowance made for those who have already paid under the old scheme. Students in Year 7 are asked to pay £25 (5 years at £5). For students in Year 8 who already have lockers, the charge will be £5 (4 years at £5, less £15 already paid), and for those in Years 9, 10 and 11 who already have lockers, there will be no charge. For students in Year 8 who will be acquiring lockers for the first time, the charge will be £20 (4 years at £5), in Year 9 £15 (3 years at £5), in Year 10 £10 (2 years at £5), and in Year 11 £5 (1 year at £5). Sixth Form lockers will be replaced soon, and will be subject to different arrangements for rental.

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The charges are, we think, moderate, and are certainly lower than in many similar schools. The benefits to the environment in general and to students in particular are evident, and I hope that you will support us by joining the scheme promptly at the start of the new school year. If you have any concerns about these arrangements, please feel free to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Peter Costello
Headteacher

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