



Le Rocquier School  
Learn, Respect and Succeed

Thursday, 01 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome to a new academic year at Le Rocquier. I hope students have enjoyed their down time, spent days at the beach or relaxed on holidays further afield and are now ready and looking forward to the new term. Here is some key information for the start of term...

### **First Day Information – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Years 8, 9, 10 and 11** already have their timetables for Tuesday and know what classes to prepare for as they began their new timetable 3 weeks before the end of the Summer Term. Lesson 1 will be assembly or form time and from Lesson 2 normal lessons.

**Years 8 and 9** are asked to go straight to their Form Tutor rooms at 8.25am for form time and then an assembly.

**Years 10 and 11** are asked to gather in form groups in the playground at 8.25am, register and go straight to assembly.

**Year 7** are asked to gather in the in the ball court (same drop off area as induction days) for 8.25am and will then go to Form Rooms.

**All students** - A reminder that students need to arrive no later than 8.20 in order to be ready for lessons at 8.25am.

### **Autumn Term dates and holidays**

INSET Days:

September 5<sup>th</sup>

September 8<sup>th</sup>

October 31<sup>st</sup>

Half Term:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

This half term is longer than normal. There is an additional holiday on the 21<sup>st</sup> October and school will be closed. This was announced a long time after we planned our INSET days to all be in this term. With our third and final INSET day on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, this is an extended half term break for students. We will not have an INSET day in the Spring or Summer terms.

INSET Day focus: We are part-way through an extensive Teaching and Learning training programme for all our teachers. Our INSET days on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> are all day sessions looking at 'feedback driven teaching', 'incorporating challenging learning activities in lessons' and 'engaging students in their learning'. To further build on this teaching and learning focus, Mrs Lappin, Mrs Sutherland and Mr Williams will join our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for a year to focus on these areas led by Mrs Baglin, Deputy Head. We are really looking forward to seeing the results of this research-based learning in our classroom.

### **2022 Exam results**

We had an amazing exam results day. The results are very good, and it was really pleasing to see students happily accepting their A Level, B-Tec or IB courses at Hautlieu, Highlands, JCG and Victoria College. A change this year was the noticeable number who have secured good quality training courses or internships with local employers. Here are some provisional headlines from the many outstanding achievements:

- English Literature – 94% pass
- Several subjects with a 100% pass rate and over 10 subjects with at least a 75% pass rate
- 5 passes including English and Maths - our highest pass rate for many years
- In two subjects, over 25% of all grades were grade 9, the highest possible

- Eight subjects had over 25% of grades in the 7 to 9 band

These amazing results were achieved through the support of our teaching, TA and support staff and, of course, the hard work of our fantastic Year 11 students. We wish them all the very best in the future, and continued success off the back of these excellent results.

### **Staffing update:**

In the summer term we said goodbye to staff for many reasons such as retirement, promotion, career progression and exploring other career opportunities. We wish them all well in their new endeavours. I am very pleased to say that our recruitment work has paid off and we welcome our equally amazing and highly skilled new staff.

### **In the classroom we welcome:**

Mrs Shipton-Taylor as temporary Head of Science

Mr Long as Head of PSHE and Second in the Social Sciences Faculty

Mrs Pinto as teacher of Business

Miss Brown, Mrs Woodward and Miss Roberts as teachers of Science

Mr Morris as Head of History

Miss Turmel as teacher of PE for Mrs Espana's maternity cover

Miss Goncalves as teacher of languages

Miss Langton as teacher of Technical Skills.

We have also appointed several teaching assistants and support staff and will continue our recruitment drive in this important area.

### **Some key staffing changes:**

Mr Nerac will move to SENCO and Director of Inclusion

Mrs Eastham will move from SENCO and become Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) and head up our new learning provision called Foundation Curriculum

Mrs Pattinson will lead the Employability Pathway group.

You will have seen in the press over the summer that over 30 teachers need recruiting across the Island. In terms of Le Rocquier, we still need to recruit a History teacher, a permanent Science teacher and a Head of Science. I am optimistic we will have these posts filled by January or hopefully before. To ensure high quality learning continues in these subjects, we have made some temporary internal staffing adjustments. An example is Mrs Shipton-Taylor will take up the Head of Science position and teach full time. What has not gone away is the daily challenge of managing staff absences when there are few supply teachers available, but this is the same in all companies and sectors at present and perhaps something you are experiencing in your own workplace.

### **Form Time:**

We have decided to temporarily merge some smaller form groups in Years 9, 10 and 11 to free up a member of staff to help across the pastoral team. There will be 6 forms instead of 7 in each year. The house system is staying the same and this will not affect lessons. This only affects their 20 minutes form time each day. The students will be informed of these changes on the first day back on Tuesday when they meet the tutor teams.

### **School Governors:**

I am very pleased to share that Susie Pinel has agreed to become our Chair of Governors for a year. Susie is a long standing Le Rocquier governor, was Deputy for St Clements and was until recently the Finance Minister for Jersey and remains a strong supporter of our school. I and our governing body are delighted that Susie has taken up this post as we look to develop the role of our governors after the disruption of COVID.

### **Uniform and Equipment:**

Please see our previous email for information. But a reminder that Years 7 and 11 will receive their school ties on Tuesday. Can we ask that parents ensure students have their equipment (Pens, pencils etc...) and are correctly dressed in the Le Rocquier uniform, including shoes.

**School Canteen and Caring Cooks:**

After the retirement of our kitchen staff, Caring Cooks have taken on a contract to provide hot school meals for our students. We are really looking forward to sampling their delicious food next week. The menu and price list is on their web site and I have attached it to this email. They accept cash and you can get a purchase card to help manage student spending habits. Details are on their website [www.caringcooksofjersey.com](http://www.caringcooksofjersey.com) .