



Mougins School

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Dear parents, students and all in the community of Mougins School,

Whether you are returning to Mougins, or joining the school for the first time, I wish you a very warm welcome to the new academic year. All the team here is very much looking forward to seeing you, after what I hope has been a happy, safe and relaxing summer.

It is an unusual and challenging time to be taking over a school, but on a personal level I have been very touched by the numerous emails and calls I have had from parents welcoming me and wishing me well. Thank you so much. Equally, the warmth, kindness, professionalism and optimism of colleagues has been really uplifting. Whatever the year brings, we will do our utmost to give your children the very best education we can, and we will be a strong, resolute and caring community.

Uppermost on all our minds, of course, is the safest possible return of students and staff in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. I write more fully on our plans and precautions in the appendix at the end of this letter. Before I do, I would like to share with you quite a bit of happier news.

Summer 2020 examinations results at A-level and IGCSE

No one involved in the education of GCSE and A-level students can have missed the debate, government U-turns and untidiness of this year's 'Centre-Assessed Grade' approach to the award of examination results, nor be insensitive to the disorienting stress it inflicted on students (and their teachers and parents.) Good sense and fair play finally prevailed, with the Examination Boards ultimately accepting the grades which teachers, who know their students best, originally submitted, without algorithmic interference. And despite unusually demanding and stressful circumstances created by lockdown and remote teaching and learning, the 2019-20 examination results of Mougins School students were really impressive.

The results, as always, are not definitive until the end of the appeals process (late October), but here are some provisional headlines.

At A-level, out of a total of 108 examinations sat, 51% were graded A/A*, 78% graded A* - B, 91% A* - C and the pass rate (A* - E) was 99%.

At IGCSE, which is either graded on a scale of 9 - 1 or A* - E (where 9 and 8 are equivalent to A*, 7 to an A, 6/5 to a high/low B and 4 to a C), 208 separate examinations were taken, of which 47% were graded A*/A, 67% A* - B, and 87 % A* - C.

These are very strong results indeed, and are testament to the hard work and commitment of students and teachers. Very many congratulations to all on a huge achievement in such difficult circumstances.

Jane Ayerst, who succeeds Jamie Beckwith as Head of Sixth Form, and I have been working hard to support (former) Form 13 students with their University applications, and the range of University courses Mougins students have enrolled in is impressive. Once we have comprehensive final details we will publish destinations on the website.

Finally, for those who didn't get the grade they were hoping for, there is the opportunity for resits. I encourage students to register for them with our exams officer, Ms Lois Downes, via Subject Leaders, very promptly. We will do all that we possibly can, of course, to support students retaking.

Teaching staff news

Perhaps it is unsurprising in an International School, given the context, that we have said goodbye to a slightly greater number of staff than usual. I am delighted, however, to welcome a very strong group of new colleagues, whom I list below.

Whole-school

Emma Griffiths took her BA in Education, with a Masters in Special Needs at the University of Wales. Emma will head up the Learning Support Department across the whole school. Further details about Emma's role are below.

Early Years and Primary

Having taken her first degree at ISCOM, Toulouse, with an HND in events Management, the lure of the classroom proved too strong for **Zoé Bennett**, who joins as Nursery assistant. **Carys Coverdale** took her honours degree in Primary Education at Trinity College Carmarthen, and joins as the Form 1 teacher. **Daisy Petrequin**, who read for her Bachelor's degree at Oxford Brookes and completed her PGCE (Post-Graduate Certificate of Education - Primary) at Buckingham University, is looking after Form 4a. **Jade Fineman** took her first degree at Southampton Solent, and her PGCE (Primary) at Bath Spa University. She joins Mougins to teach Form 5b. **Hannah Larsen** read for her first degree at Oxford Brookes, with her PGCE in Education with English Literacy specialism at the Institute of Education (University College London). She will be Form 6a's form teacher. **Sally King** read Geography at King's College, London and studied for her PGCE in Primary Education at Brighton University. She will be teaching Form 6b. And **Dulcie Kellner** joins Mougins School to teach Primary Music. Dulcie read Music at the University of Liverpool, followed by a PGCE at Liverpool Hope University.

Secondary School

Jeanette Dawson has an Honours degree in Business Studies from the University of Humberside and Lincolnshire with a PGCE from the University of Hull, and joins (unsurprisingly!) to teach Business Studies. **Faye Gossedge** graduated with a Master's degree in Music from the Academy of Music, Krakow, and

completed her QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) at Durham University. Faye joins Mougins Secondary as Head of Music. **Elizabeth Hernandez Freitas** read Modern Languages at the Metropolitana University of Venezuela, and for a Master's in Foreign Language Didactics from the University of Sophia Antipolis. Finally, **Kate Ryder** joins the English Department. Kate read for her MA in English Literature with the Open University and her PGCE (Secondary English) at the University of Plymouth.

All new colleagues (including myself) arrived a week ago, and have been settling in and learning the Mougins systems. We are all very much looking forward to the new year.

The Senior Leadership Team

After a tortuous return to his home in New Zealand, brought about by Covid restrictions, Glen Horsfall took the tough decision not to return to Europe for the new school year, and he leaves with our understanding and best wishes. I have been in touch with him and am pleased that I will be covering much of his role as Head of Secondary - which is my area of expertise - along with Headship of the whole School. Christine Bearman continues as Head of Primary, as does Patricia Moon as Head of Early Years/Foundation Stage. I have already mentioned that Jane Ayerst becomes Head of Sixth Form, with a particular focus on Sixth Form Study Skills and University Support. I am delighted, too, that Robert Cooke joins the SLT as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Head of Pastoral Care. The SLT has been meeting frequently, by Zoom and latterly together in person, to prepare for the new year, and I am pleased that it is a strong, cohesive group, committed to the success and wellbeing of students, the support of the teaching and operational staff, and to the evolution of the school. I will write later on in the term of the development of the executive of the school.

Staff training

I thought parents would like to know that in the Continuing Professional Development week, just before the beginning of term, teaching colleagues have engaged in a range of training. There has been a presentation on Safeguarding and Student Welfare (following the re-issue of the UK's statutory guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education*). We have had breakout discussions and plenaries on what we have learnt from remote teaching, and how we will take our knowledge forward to put it to good use. We have also completed online training on bullying, inclusion and discrimination and e-safety. We have also drafted an inclusion/anti-discrimination policy which is being finalised by the SLT and which we will publish on the website.

In other staff news

Before the professionals have ridden the course, our very own David Derham has just completed the entire *Tour de France* circuit by bike, raising money for charity. Huge congratulations to David! We will post on the news page!

Academic matters

Thomas Schaedler has shared with me the concerns and wishes of parents last year, and I am pleased to confirm the following.

The development of Sixth Form provision

A full Sixth Form Timetable. The timetable has been entirely reconstructed 'from the ground up,' to ensure that all AS- and A-level subjects occupy their proper eight periods per week. There will no longer be 'kickouts' (lessons off-timetable): all subject teaching will be delivered to the Sixth Form (Forms 12 and 13) during the normal timetabled day, and all subjects will receive the full timetable allocation of lessons.

Psychology AS-level. I can confirm that we will pilot, as Mr Schaedler mooted, the provision of Psychology as an AS-subject, with the online provider Pamoja Education (<https://pamojaeducation.com/>), with Jane Ayerst looking after students opting for this on the ground. Students following this option will be expected to study in the library/Sixth Form Study area for eight periods in school.

Study Skills and University Preparation. It goes without saying that the transition from IGCSE to deeper and more independent A-level study needs support and scaffolding. Jane Ayerst and I have put together a team which will deliver a compulsory Sixth Form Study Skills programme to the Lower Sixth (Year 12), looking at, for example, time management, research skills, essay writing, note taking, what plagiarism means, examination strategies and so on. In the Upper Sixth (Form 13) we will present a programme of University Preparation skills - researching Universities, the UCAS personal statement, non-UK options, interview skills and practice. We hope too to have an information evening for parents on University preparation and A-levels.

Learning Support/SEN

I am delighted that Emma Griffiths, who has considerable experience in the field of Special Educational Needs joins Mougins with a brief to develop substantively our support for those who need it. As a first step, we have renamed the department 'Learning Support' to underscore that we support all students, not just those with a diagnosed Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD). Emma will be based in a suite of rooms near the English department and will be working closely with EAL teachers too. She will be auditing and developing our SEN records, updating our LS policy, and working closely with students and parents on IAPs. She will also be a friendly face for anyone to go and see if they need a bit of advice or help, and will liaise with the exams office to ensure that examination concessions are applied for where needed.

Pastoral and co-curricular provision

After-school *garderie*. I am pleased to confirm that we will be offering after-school care, as promised, for children aged three to thirteen, working with a new partner, Riviera Kids. Please see the Mougins School dedicated page on their website (<https://www.rivierakids.fr/garderie-happy-hours-mougins-school>) for pricing and details. Anabela Carregueira is coordinating this service. Do get in touch with her if there is anything you would like to discuss. Her email address is: a.carregueira@mougins-school.com.

After-school activities. Riviera Kids will also be providing a range of activities for younger children after school. This service will also be coordinated by Anabela Carreiguira. Do have a look at what's on offer on their page, at: <https://www.rivierakids.fr/activites-extra-scolaires-mougins-school>.

Both services begin from Monday 14 September, and online enrolment is available on their dedicated Mougins School pages.

As I said in the 'Q & A' in the PTA newsletter, I believe that education should be holistic, with high-quality teaching and learning, enriched by great co-curricular provision, and supported by strong pastoral care. Debating, music-making, drama, sport, outdoor activity, Youth Parliaments, Model United Nations, competitions are the beating heart of school life. We are in the process of curating a calendar of events and activities (Covid restrictions notwithstanding) which we will publish on the website as soon as possible. We hope that there will be something to appeal to all our students, and hope too for support from parents!

Catering

I am delighted to let you know that from this year we have a new contract with a local catering company, Garig (see their website: <https://www.garig.com/>), which will prepare menus from locally-sourced fresh bio fruit and vegetables and meat. Gérald, the Catering Manager, Anna-Maria, the chef, and the whole service team remain in place.

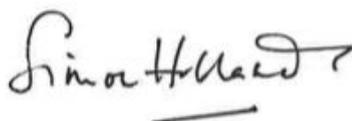
Meet the Head Master *apéros*

It is very important to me to get to know the community at Mougins School as soon as possible, and personally have a chance to chat to parents. Once term gets underway I would like very much to invite you to a series of social drinks evenings, by year group. I will write again shortly with some dates.

If you have made it this far - thank you! It is a great privilege to be Head of this amazing school, and bringing the community back together, communicating fully, establishing safe working practices for all and especially meeting face-to-face our Mougins families are my first priorities.

I wish everyone a happy and successful school year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Hollands". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Simon Hollands

Head Master

Appendix

Covid-19 protocols and the safe return to class

We are closely following French government guidelines. At the moment we are anticipating a full return to school on Monday 7 September for all teachers and students, though inevitably the *Rentrée 2020* will feel a little different. The safety of all in the community is our primary concern. Everyone in the community is naturally concerned about the threat of Covid transmission, and we have put in place sensible measures to reduce the possibility of infection, with reference to the national *Protocole sanitaire pour la Rentrée 2020* and advice from the Mairie of Mougins.

Start of school/drop off

There will be three gates used for drop-off: the main gates, the Primary gate and the gate by the EYFS building. Both Primary and Secondary gates will be staffed. Parents bring their very young children into the Early Years Department.

We will open the **Secondary school** gates earlier than normal, at 8.00 am, to ease throughflow, allow distancing and reduce bottlenecks. The **Primary school** will open as before at 8.30, as will the **Early Years Department**.

We ask parents who are dropping off children not to congregate outside for the time being, and always to wear masks, even outside. Please also pick up your child after school promptly.

Temperature measurement

We have been fortunate to have acquired a number of thermal cameras. This means that we can check the temperature of people coming on-site quickly and easily. A higher than normal temperature is a good indicator of possible COVID19 infection.

The cameras will indicate high temperatures and if we have a concern a second will be taken after ten minutes. If a student has a temperature of 38°C or above, then we will accompany them to the nurse's room, keep them in isolation and ask you to collect them and take them for a test. If a child tests positive s/he should remain at home for fourteen days.

The wearing of masks

All students in the Secondary school must wear masks all the time when in a closed space on campus, even when 1-metre distancing is possible. Children under the age of 11 do not have to wear a mask in school **except** when travelling to French, PE and music in the Secondary school. Please remember that masks have to be changed on a regular basis if they are to be effective and safe. All used masks will have to be stored safely if they are washable or disposed of in the bins on site.

All staff, at all levels of the school, will wear masks, as required by the *protocole sanitaire*, even when a minimum distance of 1 metre is possible (this requirement has changed since the previous edition of the *protocole*) including outdoors. All parents should supply masks to their children - we will have an emergency supply in school only.

Handwashing

We have good stocks of alcohol-based gel and dispensers around the site, and every classroom has a

supply of the gel as well and loads of soap and water. The Secondary gate has two dispensers , and the Primary gate has one. All pupils should use the gel on entry to school, and wash hands frequently during the day: at break times and before lunch as a minimum, and after going to the toilet, coughing or sneezing. S/he should also wash hands after returning home from school. We dry hands using paper towels dispensed from non-contact dispensers and gloves are used for certain tasks.

Flow markings

There are flow markings on floors to encourage distancing and purposeful movement between lessons and to relieve pinch-points. We will have *priorité à droite* - keeping to the right of the corridor, and limiting 'crossroads.' Staff will be around in corridors as lessons change to ensure safe 'traffic flow'.

Posters and signage

There are posters visible all over campus reminding everyone of the importance of frequent handwashing, good hygiene practice, distancing and ways of keeping as safe as possible.

Cleaning

Our cleaning team is providing us with a full daily cleaning service using virucide agents on floors and surfaces, and our catering company, Garig, will clean tables and surfaces in the Café des Amis between services. Again we are closely following the *protocole sanitaire*.

Fresh air

All classroom windows will be open at all times during lessons, to enable fresh air to circulate.

If you child presents symptoms at home

Please inform the school immediately. Your child should avoid all contact with others outside the family unit. You should arrange for a test immediately, and if it proves positive, keep your child off school for fourteen days.

Teaching and Learning

All teachers' lesson plans and material will be posted on Google Classroom, so there is, in effect, a 'dual approach' to learning.

Changing circumstances

It is clear that the situation is evolving. We will keep you fully informed of changes to our provision, by email and a dedicated Covid page under the Community tab of the website.