

9 October 2023



Dear parents and carers

I have really enjoyed meeting the Year 8s over the last five weeks. Many have proved to be outstanding ambassadors who have demonstrated the attributes we value here at The Spires College.

Year 8 is an important year for all students as they need to carefully consider their options for GCSE courses. The College will ensure that this process enables all students to make fully informed choices that are best suited to them and their future. My aim is that all students in my year group leave the College with the best possible outcomes and are well-rounded individuals who can make a positive contribution to their community.

For a successful academic year, we encourage contact from parents and carers so that we can listen to any comments or concerns you may have. Your child's tutor is a first point of contact with any day-to-day questions that might arise and you can find their contact details on the college website: [The Spires College - Tutors and Student Support](#). Please note that staff are unlikely to be available if you visit the college without an appointment due to the commitments of their roles, so please ensure you contact us to make an appointment before you arrive. We also have the tutor evening on Wednesday 18 October, which is a fantastic opportunity to meet with your child's tutor online to discuss priorities and targets for your child. Details about how to make your appointment were sent out last week.

I have been really impressed with how many Year 8 students have been getting involved with the opportunities on offer. The number of ambitious students supporting the history department on the Open Evening was inspiring. To watch the students talking to prospective students and parents about studying history at the College with such confidence and knowledge was fantastic. The Year 8 tutor team will be encouraging all Year 8 students to join a team or take part in a lunchtime or after school club. There are daily reminders of the clubs and activities that are available, and I urge you to encourage your child to participate. They are a great way to make new friends, learn new skills and build confidence. Extra-curricular activities can also build teamwork, communication skills and foster a sense of belonging, which can help a young person develop socially and can help support a successful education. There are a wide variety of extra-curricular activities on offer during the autumn term. Details are on the college website: [The Spires College - Enrichment and Extra-Curricular](#)

To help students get the right start to their day, they have the opportunity to come to our daily breakfast club. We encourage students to join us between 8 and 8.20 am to enjoy a healthy breakfast with a wide range of choices available. More information is on the college website: [The Spires College - Dining Facilities](#).

We have high expectations for all students to ensure that each day they can maximise the learning and extra-curricular opportunities that the school day offers. To ensure this happens, I want to remind everyone about the importance of attendance and punctuality. Time not in school or late to lessons is lost learning time, negatively impacting student outcomes. We therefore encourage our students to maintain high attendance rates and ask parents and carers to contact the College if students are unable to attend for any reason.

I would love to hear about any achievements your child may have accomplished away from College. If there is anything you would like to share with me so that we can celebrate achievements outside of the College, please email me. I'd love the opportunity to share these successes within the College community too.

As a mum of two boys, one of whom is also in Year 8, I do not take lightly the responsibility and important task of pastoral support. I have really enjoyed the first weeks of working with the year group and look forward to guiding them through their GCSEs and supporting them with their onward journey. I have already spoken to many parents and carers and I thank you for your support. If you have questions or want to speak to me, feel free to get in touch. My email address is ehogan@thespirescollege.com

I look forward to working with you to support your children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Hogan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs E Hogan
Head of Year 8