



# Concord Annual Review 2016

## *Highlights*

Concord College has had another super year. Excellent results have been combined with exceptional outcomes to ensure that record numbers of our leavers are attending top universities in the UK and around the world. In addition to this, the school is bigger than it has ever been (currently 540 students), the campus is set to grow by 32 acres and a new boarding residence has opened for Lower School girls.

The real challenge however, is to ensure that we manage to achieve all this while ensuring that students continue to feel that they have 'space to flourish'. The measurable outcomes that we strive for should not obscure the fact that is probably the softer outcomes that will be most important in enabling Concord leavers to be fully socialized human beings who are determined and able to make a constructive contribution to the various communities and societies they will inhabit. At the heart of this lies the warmth of our school community. This year has been marked by so many examples of this warmth, ranging from acts of charitable fund-raising, to support for others through mentoring and day-to-day acts of kindness around the campus and in the classroom and boarding residences. The staff at Concord is fully committed to this holistic sense of nurturing the young people under our care as. As Carl Jung once wrote:

*"One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."*

# Highlights 2016

## *Academic Achievement*



Concord's academic performance this year has once again been very strong. Depending on how we measure such things, record grades at A level were achieved, but it is probably fairest to say that at A level and GCSE, Concord achieved its third and second best results respectively in the College's 67 year history. The joy of these results is that they are not only an affirmation for the students concerned, but they also help to open doors for them in the future. We were also delighted by the achievements of Concord's 6.1 students who – we believe – achieved Concord's best ever scores at this level, though with curriculum change in the UK this is not entirely clear.

What is clear however, is that Concord's leavers have gone on to some fantastic university destinations. Probably most impressively, a record 25 have gone on to Oxford or Cambridge while a further 18 will be attending Imperial College London, 16 are going to University College London, 14 to King's College London and 12 to the London School of Economics. An amazing 36 will be studying medicine, dentistry or veterinary science in the UK or elsewhere. We are also delighted that several Concordians have realised their dreams of studying in the USA, Hong Kong, Australia and Singapore.

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement at GCSE Lucy Hampton, Melody Hung, Madeleine Lempert and Jade Low have been awarded 'Continuation scholarships' into the sixth form. 'Top Student Scholarships' have been awarded to Lottie Cansdale, Aden Ho, Stella Li, Hilbert Xiao and Jil Ong for their superb achievement at AS level.



## The Future

Concord continues to change and to develop. The education we offer here at Concord is underpinned by a commitment to strive for quality outcomes, but is also to prepare young people for their future not the future that was ours. In this context, Concord continues to invest in education with our latest project being the construction of a new 22 laboratory science block that will be complete in January 2018. This building places practical science and scientific research very much at the heart of the school and recognises the need for 21<sup>st</sup> Century citizens to understand that science is a practical and research-led discipline.

We are also continuing to develop our alumni network and linking the fantastic skills of our alumni with our current students through a programme we have called Concord Online. Concord's summer course is also being refined with new courses becoming available in 2017 designed to support students who are applying to the most demanding UK and US universities.

In amongst all the change however, it is vital for us to remember that the quality of the education is the top priority. The children with us now have only one chance to be a member of Form 3, of Form 4, of Form 5, of 6.1 and of 6.2. This year is their year. Therefore, as we plan for tomorrow we must always remember that it is today that is the most important day in any child's education.

Neil Hawkins, Principal, October 2016