

## Principal's Review 2019

When Macmillan College opened in 1989 there was a clear brief to the leaders of the school that they were expected to ensure that students who attended must be well prepared for future employment. It was clear that if that were to happen, students had to achieve well academically and also develop a range of skills and attributes that could only come from getting involved in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

There have been many achievements our students have made over the last 12 months, in a variety of different areas. It is important to remember the fantastic range of activities that our students can get involved in.

Our arts curriculum continues to be a special feature, enabling our students to develop confidence and creativity. Among last year's highlights were the production of 'School of Rock', impressive musical performances at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, our Summer Art Exhibition showcasing our A level students' work and seeing our students perform on stage with the RSC in 'The Merchant of Venice'.

Our commitment to outdoor learning continues to enable our students to develop some very valuable skills which employers are keen to see. The Duke of Edinburgh Programme is increasingly popular this year and around fifty students have been rewarded as part of this scheme at either bronze, silver or gold level. The gold award is particularly special and very difficult to achieve so it is fantastic to see four Year 13 students receive this award and members of staff accompanying them to St James' Palace to be awarded in the presence of the Earl of Wessex.

Many of our students benefit significantly from the opportunities that school sport offers. As a long standing strength of the school, this may have been our most successful year yet! With notable successes in all team sports for both boys and girls, the academy has been placed 30th in the country across all school sports. To put this in perspective, it places us in the top 1% of state secondary schools for competitive sport.

An increasing aspect of the academy's work is our partnership with Archibald Primary School. It is very common to see children from Archibald in the academy involved in collaborative activities in maths, MFL, art and drama. A particular highlight has been our joint work with the Royal Shakespeare Company and our WWI drama performance for the Remembrance Broadcast which was shown across both schools. As the partnership develops, it will give students from Macmillan opportunities to work with younger students and they will find this a very rewarding experience.

In looking back over the year, I hope you will all agree that there is an astonishing breadth of activity that our students can benefit from. This can only be made possible by the dedication and willingness of staff at the academy and I am very grateful to them for their continued commitment.

