



## SOUTH KENT SCHOOL

*Simplicity of Life • Self-Reliance • Directness of Purpose*

Dear Sixth Form Students and Parents:

As the Dean of the Sixth Form, I am pleased to welcome you to a most exciting and challenging school year. As school leaders, much will be expected of you in terms of your academic and social leadership. Our theme for the year is *Serving Others and Moving On*. In that regard, we are preparing opportunities for leadership both on and off campus. We will continue on-campus jobs and responsibilities, including supervisory roles in a variety of programs. You will be asked to be positive role models for the under-formers, and to set an example for what it means to be a productive member of this community.

**Philosophy and Goals:** Your Sixth Form year involves a balance of four main components: academic performance, the college process, school leadership, and service to others. Each is important for your optimal development. We have a strong program to enrich your experience at South Kent, but you must be fully invested in order to take advantage of these opportunities. The level of your commitment will be a predictor of your success at South Kent and later in life.

**The Academic Program:** This year you will be asked to realize your potential both in and out of the classroom. We will be asking you to strive for academic excellence as critical thinkers, to present clear and thoughtful oral and written communications, and to become sophisticated problem solvers. Additional advanced placement courses are being offered this year, which will allow students to further strengthen their transcripts.

**The College Process:** For most students, the college process has already begun. We will continue working on that process early in the fall. All Sixth Form students should begin to think about college recommendations and who would be the most appropriate people to write them. Colleges usually ask for two letters of recommendation. We will have a number of college representatives on campus in the fall, and arrangements can be made through our Counseling office for you to visit colleges, as well.

**Summer Reading:** The book that has been selected for the Sixth Form, and postgraduates, is *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David O. Reelin. Near the top of the *New York Times* best-seller list for over two years, this book is the true story of a young mountaineer who, in 1993, “drifted into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram mountains after a failed attempt to climb K2. Moved by the inhabitants’ kindness, he promised to return and build a school.” The book tells of his heroic efforts to fulfill that promise, the result of which is currently fifty-five schools in the same rugged area of Pakistan where the Taliban started. Mortenson’s story dramatizes many themes that will resonate with your final year at South Kent. In addition to service to others, you will read about incredible physical and mental determination in the face of obstacles. You will see how Mortenson learns to communicate successfully with people from a different culture, and what he learns from them in the partnerships he forms. You will observe grass-roots entrepreneurship as Mortenson moves from investing his own tiny savings into the purchase of building materials to his being the director of an internationally acclaimed foundation.

You will find *Three Cups of Tea* available at almost any bookstore that sells contemporary best sellers, as well as through internet sellers Amazon or Barnes and Noble. There will be opportunities to discuss and write about this book when you return to school in September. Careful preparation of this assignment will prepare you well mentally for the fall term, and tangible evidence of your efforts will give your first marking period English grade a boost. We suggest that you take notes or keep a reaction reading journal to show to your teacher.

On behalf of the Sixth Form Team, we are all excited about the upcoming year and the possibilities in store for all of us. I am available throughout the summer if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Sincerely,

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### Sixth Form Year

- § Theme: Service and Moving on
- § Giving Back to the Community
- § Getting prepared for what comes after South Kent
- § Challenging and meaningful academics
- § Fostering good communication skills
- § Accepting responsibility for oneself