



Dear 5th Form Students and Families,

Hello from the College Counseling Office! We hope you've all had a chance to catch your breath and to recharge your batteries since June, and that you are ready to come back to Brooks!

We're looking forward to school beginning next week and we wanted to be sure we were in touch before we hit the ground running this fall. It was a pleasure to get to know this class of students last spring. We enjoyed getting to know you personally, learning a bit about your family, and discussing your path through Brooks. If you are new to Brooks, you will have your first meeting with your assigned college counselor in November.

Our goal in the college counseling process at Brooks is to give students and their families a lot of time, great resources, and thoughtful guidance to make your search a fulfilling and self-directed one. We've built time into your winter and spring for you to take advantage of the resources here, and we work hard to maximize the benefits of the time you spend thinking about and working on your postgraduate plans. In the meantime, your primary responsibility in this process is to start your 5th Form year giving your best, right out of the gate. Your formal work with Wendy Brennan, Kristin Moody, Christine Jackson, and me will begin this winter, when we'll have our first small-group meetings with your class.

On Friday afternoon of Family Weekend (10/18/2019), we will be hosting Liz Cheron, Dean of Admissions at Northeastern, who will be speaking to families about demystifying the college process. Following her talk, our office will present on the college process and curriculum at Brooks. These sessions are open to all Brooks families but are particularly relevant for 5th Form parents about to embark on the process.

Parents, please note that our annual kickoff event, the *Brooks School 5th Form College Weekend*, will take place on Friday and Saturday, January 31st and February 1st. **Save the date! Friday night consists of an informal cocktail reception. Saturday morning, the program includes Deans and Associate Deans of Admissions from several colleges and universities, and will provide an informative panel and some very useful case studies. It's a worthwhile weekend, and will give your family some common language and wisdom directly from college representatives. In years past, we have had admissions deans and associate deans from Bucknell University, Northeastern University, Boston University, Connecticut College, University of Chicago, Lake Forest College, Vanderbilt University, University of Vermont, Middlebury College, NYU and many more. We look forward to having another fantastic line-up in 2020.**

After the kickoff event, the junior year college curriculum occurs through a series of individual and group meetings. Each 5th Form student will have meetings with their college counselor, a series of college-classroom sessions in our Self and Community program, and Form Meetings to help students become familiar with the process. During Family Weekend and at the Kick-off, we will provide a much more in depth view of what our 5th Form program entails.

In the meantime, our office will be in touch with important programming updates as the school year unfolds. We look forward to working more closely with each and every one of you in the 2019-20 school year! May your final summer days be restful and fun, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

All the best,

Andy Campbell / Dean of College Counseling