

August 24, 2017

Dear Forms IV and V,

I hope you are enjoying the last few weeks of your summer vacations and starting to think about the upcoming school year. I also hope that you have taken some time to reflect on the past year and to plan on how you will expand and improve this year on what you have already accomplished in the Upper School.

I hope that you have had ample time to relax so that you are well rested and ready for another school year. I imagine that you have completed all of the summer reading and that you are ready to discuss the reading in classes. Everyone in the Upper School community will have read *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah, and I look forward to our discussions of the book.

As always, summer has been busy at Browning. Mr. Marshall and the Browning maintenance staff have done a terrific job preparing the school for your return. In the first few weeks of school, find a moment to thank the staff for their hard work.

As we have done in the past, all students in Form V will attend mandatory SAT-preparation classes that will run from the beginning of the school year into the spring. The classes will be taught by instructors from Zinc Educational Services and will meet every Thursday during fourth period.

Additionally, Form V will be joining Form VI on the annual College Trip, which will take place from Wednesday, September 13, to Friday, September 15. It is a great opportunity for you Form V students to see various types of colleges and universities without the pressure of having to apply this fall.

Form IV will make its traditional trek to Frost Valley in January (17-19) to join sophomores from Brearley, Chapin, Nightingale, Spence and Collegiate for three days of winter activities and engaging discussions with your single-sex school peers. Dr. Wisniewski and the Peer Leaders will keep you up-to-date on the plans for that event as we get closer to the new year.

We will continue our semester schedule. There will be final exams in December and June. Additionally, we have implemented some changes to the Advisor/Parent conferences; there will be two conferences, one in November and another in April, and all Upper School students (Forms III to VI) will attend these conferences with their parent(s). You will hear more about this from your advisors as the school year progresses.

Finally and most importantly, come to school ready to be an asset to the Upper School. How can you best achieve that? By caring about your peers, and by understanding that your experience is predicated on a mutual respect for your peers and for yourself. These are important developmental years for you, and your classmates will have a profound impact on the person you become. Support each other and have the confidence that you will have the support of your

peers. Please review the online *Student Handbook* before school starts to reacquaint yourselves with Browning's expectations and the community standards under which we all operate.

Enjoy the final weeks of your summer vacation. I look forward to seeing all of you at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6.

All best,
James E. Reynolds
Head of Upper School