



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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12th September, 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that had an enjoyable summer and that you and your son/daughter have been looking forward to either returning or joining us at STFS for the first time today.

At the start of term, I thought it would be useful to remind you about a few key 'housekeeping' issues which will ensure that the start of term is a positive one for everyone.

Students should now be in full uniform, meaning blazer and tie rather than the summer uniform. Jumpers are optional but must not be worn instead of a blazer. I would like to thank parents for their support of our uniform. The students have all returned looking very smart.

The following equipment is essential for students to have in school on a daily basis, it will be checked regularly.

- School Bag – This should be capable of carrying books for each subject and not a 'handbag'.
- Tablet computer – (once issued by school) *Parents and students are reminded that the School iPad must be brought to school every day and it should be fully charged)*
- Pens & pencils (At least 3 writing pens – blue/black, and at least 3 HB pencils)
- Ruler
- Exercise book for each lesson
- Calculator (Scientific)
- Some subjects (such as Maths/Art/DT) may have additional requirements.
- *PE have written separately regarding kit.*

Where students are regularly without the required equipment, the form tutor will contact home.

I would also like to take this early opportunity to explain to parents exactly how you can expect us to report to you on student progress over the coming year.

Our policy is to formally report on attainment once per year, just prior to the main consultation evening. This will include a detailed written report for each subject. In Years 10 and 11 there will be two reporting points in each year, one focusing on data and the other to include a detailed written report. At STFS, all students complete some form of assessment in each subject six times per year so we collate a huge amount of data.



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We do not however, feel that reporting each of these individually to parents is necessarily helpful. Assessments often focus on different skills or topics and consequently attainment tends to vary across the year. For this reason, we focus on the start and finish points in the year and this is what we report to you. In common with most secondary schools, we continue to review our progress measures following the removal of formal national attainment levels at Key Stage 3.

All staff in school use what we call 'yellow sheet' feedback at least twice per half term in every subject area and parents should read these carefully. This feedback is usually detailed and will give a good indication of strengths and areas for development for your child. They will usually include the students' own comments on what they were proud of or what they found more difficult. There is an opportunity on these feedback sheets for parents to add their own comment and we strongly encourage this. We know that secondary age students are often reluctant to share their books with parents so we would encourage you to get them to share them with you. You will also find that we use peer assessment widely and examples of this will usually also be found in exercise books twice each half term.

In May 2015, Ofsted made the following comments regarding our student tracking, progress and achievement:

Senior leaders set no limits on what students can achieve. They successfully use their tracking of students' progress to identify students who need extra support. As a result, students make good progress.

Students join the school in Year 7 with starting points broadly in line with national averages and make good progress in English and very good progress in mathematics. Consequently, most students are on track to make good progress and meet their targets.

In mathematics, teachers develop students' mathematical reasoning skills effectively and ensure that the work set closely matches the abilities of students... This ensures the vast majority of students make very good progress. In history and modern foreign languages, students achieve highly and make good progress.

Another key part of our communication with you is through our parents' consultation evenings. These provide a valuable opportunity to ask about your son/daughter's performance in relation to their potential; their strengths, their achievements and their areas for development. We are pleased that attendance at parents' consultation evenings across all year groups generally exceeds 90%.

- 6th Form Information Evening Thursday 20th October
- Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening Wednesday 2nd November
- Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening Tuesday 17th January
- Year 9 Preference Evening Tuesday 7th February



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- Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening Thursday 30th March
- Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening Wednesday 26th April
- Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening Thursday 22nd June
- Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening Tuesday 18th July

Teachers at STFS often teach more than one group in a year group and in some cases they may even teach all of the students in a year group. With this in mind we allocate 5 minutes to each appointment for each subject. If it appears that you require a further and perhaps deeper conversation then you are encouraged to arrange an additional appointment.

Your son/daughter will be given an appointment card and they will be responsible for arranging their appointment times with their teachers. Please be assured that we will always endeavour to ensure that parents are aware of forthcoming events. They are always posted on our website and on Facebook. We also email reminder letters home in advance of the evening.

If parents / carers wish for additional feedback outside of these opportunities, staff will happily provide this. We welcome email communication but would ask that this is addressed initially through form tutors as they are best placed to collect and collate any feedback.

Those new to STFS should note that we regularly use our Facebook page to inform parents about what is going on in school. This in no way replaces letter/email communication but is used to report on sporting events, activities in and out of schools and to link to local media or other interesting links. New stories on our Facebook page are usually posted at least daily so it is well worth looking at it regularly. It is also the place to find the up to date news and photos of the new build.

We often also give out general reminders on this page as well so please 'like' our page to keep fully up to date. Please also ensure that the school have an up to date email address (if you have one) which will ensure that you receive all correspondence.

This is clearly a very exciting year for STFS. We will have a first (albeit small) cohort of GCSE students and are very much looking to moving into our new site in the summer and then adding our new 6th form. We very much look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely



Darren J Lyon
(Headmaster)

