



Ref: NCS

Date: Friday, 21 October 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this end of term letter finds you all well. It has been a fantastic (and record breaking) term here at The Sittingbourne School, with so much going on. Working in such a busy school, we rarely get a chance to stop and think about all the great things that happen here on a daily basis, which is why I enjoy writing these letters.

In September we welcomed over 300 new Year 7s to the school. Everyone here has been so impressed with how well they settled into life at secondary school, in particular, how conscientious, polite and hardworking they are. They are a credit to the school and their families.

With the arrival of our new Year 7s the school is now the most popular it has ever been. The Sittingbourne School now has over 1,600 students in it and we have waiting lists for spaces in all year groups. Our sixth form has also never been so popular with over 200 students on roll studying a range of courses and qualifications.

Prior to the start of term, we were also over the moon to see a record number of our students achieving excellent exam results in their GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams. Highlights include more students than ever passing both English and Maths at GCSE, an increase in the average grade students received and our sixth form results being the best across all of the the Swale Academies Trust sixth forms. At all levels, our students' results were fantastic and a credit to the hard work of the students and their teachers. As a parent, I know only too well how hard we have to work to get our children through their exams so thank you and well done to all the parents and carers too. More details of this summer's results can be found here:

<https://www.thesittingbourneschool.org.uk/page/?title=Achievement&pid=87>

At the end of September we held our yearly Open Evening for all prospective pupils, parents and carers to attend. Again, it was a record breaking evening with well over 2,000 visitors coming to have a look around. We have also had open morning tours taking place across October so people could come and see the school in action. The feedback from all of our events has been overwhelmingly positive so I predict the number of parents and carers choosing the school for their child will continue to rise. I would also like to thank all of the parents and carers who take the time to say positive things about the school to friends, family and in public forums.

The views and feedback of parents and carers is essential for a great school. Therefore, I will be repeating my headteacher surgeries from last year. The first of which will be taking place on Thursday, 10 November 2022 between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. If you would like to come and speak

with me about the school, to ask questions, raise a concern or to make suggestions, please call reception to book a 15 minute slot.

We've had another busy term with regards to trips and visits too. In the past few weeks alone we've had a reward trip to Thorpe Park, over 250 students visit Wimbledon Theatre to see a production of 'An Inspector Calls' and, at present, we also have students from across the year groups in Paris. After half term we have a Geography trip to Iceland and preparations continue for our ski trip in Spring 2023. Trips and visits are a key part of a student's life at TSS and we will continue to offer opportunities for all students to go on as many trips as possible.

Whilst trips and visits are a key part of life at TSS, I always say that our core business is teaching and learning. If our lessons are not well planned and delivered and the students' work not assessed and feedback, then we wouldn't see our results improving year on year. As you may know, I visit lessons every day to see how the staff and students are getting on and I am pleased to say how impressed I have been with what I see on a daily basis in classrooms and in the students' books. The vast majority of lessons are full of hard working students engaging well with their work and, as a result, making good progress. However, please don't take my word for it, if you would like to come and see some lessons in action, please contact reception and we'll book you in for a visit.

Next term is already lining up to be another busy but exciting term with more great learning, trips, visits, clubs and sporting fixtures to squeeze in. However, at present the highlight of next term is the opening of two brand new toilet blocks in the school. The toilets here have long been a gripe of the students so we have had two brand new toilet blocks built. Whilst there has been a delay in them being finished, they will be ready for use after half term. They have been specifically designed to make them a safer and less daunting space (especially for our younger students), including all of the facilities being in cubicles with floor to ceiling walls so students have total privacy whilst going to the toilet. They are also light and open spaces and will have CCTV in the communal space for safety purposes. Please note that the cameras do not (nor can they ever) look into the cubicles. However, should you have a concern about this, please contact the school as soon as possible and I will call you back to discuss the matter.

Finally, I would like to point all parents and carers in the direction of The Sittingbourne School's Facebook page where you can see regular updates of what is happening in and out of school. Either search The Sittingbourne School on Facebook or click on the Facebook logo in the top right hand corner or our school homepage.

Whatever you have planned for the half term break, I hope you all have a restful yet enjoyable time.

Kind regards



Mr N Smith
Headteacher