



Friday, 16 December 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the festive period. As always, it has been another busy term here at TSS with so much to celebrate. As I wrote in my newsletter at the end of last term, this year we have moved away from our traditional newsletter format and instead we ask you to check out our Facebook page for updates. Just search for The Sittingbourne School on Facebook or click on the Facebook logo in the top right hand corner or our school homepage. There you'll see all the great events and updates from across the term. However, I would like to highlight a few of my personal favourites.

Following on from our successful Open Evening and Open Mornings in September and October, I was very pleased to find out last month that in terms of families choosing TSS as the secondary school for their child next year, the school has never been so popular with more parents/carers choosing us as either their first or second choice. This is down to the great work being carried out by our staff and our fantastic students who, whether in school or in the community, are great ambassadors for the school. From speaking to many of the parents who came to look around, they would often comment on the lovely things they'd heard about the school from friends and family who attend or have children here. Thank you to everyone who helped spread a positive message about the school. Positivity is catching and it makes all the difference to the school.

Another highlight has been the opening of three new toilet blocks in the school for the students. As I am sure your child has told you, the toilets here at TSS were very unpleasant and students would do all they could to put off having to use them. Building work started back in late spring and was due to finish in time for the start of the school year. Sadly, the work went over schedule but they are open now and provide students with clean, light and safe spaces to use the toilet.

As I say time and time again, teaching and learning is our core business so it has been lovely to see so much good practice taking place across the school. As part of the support we receive from the Swale Academies Trust, we have been visited by several experts in the field of teaching and learning to see how we are doing and to help develop our staff further. Every expert, including a trained H.M.I. Ofsted inspector have commented on the high quality of teaching that takes place here at TSS. That's not to say we're resting on our laurels. We will continue to try and improve even further. As well respected educationalist Dylan William said, "If we create a culture where every teacher believes they need to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can be even better, there is no limit to what we can

achieve". I would like at this point to thank all the TSS teachers and support staff for the great job they do in helping our students be the very best they can be.

Another recent innovation we have had this term is our curriculum webpage, on the school website. It provides parents and carers with a detailed breakdown of what their child will learn in each subject, each term. It also provides you with enquiry questions that students should be able to answer by the end of the unit. Please take the time to have a look and when you next ask your child what they learnt at school today and they say "Dunno", you can remind them and even ask them a question to see what they can remember. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at the answers you get back. Please click [here](#) to get to the curriculum webpage.

As always we have continued our relentless drive to ensure student attendance is as high as possible, so they're learning is maximised and the chances of success greatly increased. You will have seen our end of term attendance competition to reward students (and their families) with 100% attendance and I am pleased to announce that Preeya in Year 8 has won the first prize of a family meal at Nandos. Congratulations also go to Matthew in Year 11 and Foster in Year 7 who both won runners up prizes of £50 Amazon vouchers each. There are also chocolate Santas for all students with 100% attendance for the past few weeks. There will be more prizes and incentives next term. Thank you to all the parents and carers for their support in getting their children into school as much as possible.

As I wrote earlier, please check out our Facebook page for regular updates on what's going on at The Sittingbourne School. There is also a fantastic video summing up what we've achieved this term that can be found [here](#). Please take the time to check it out.

That just leaves for me to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable break and I look forward to seeing all the students back in school at 8.35am on Wednesday, 4 January.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Smith'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a smaller 'S'.

Mr N Smith  
Headteacher