

Friday, 9 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. As we wind down another productive term here at The Sittingbourne School, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights for this term and provide you with some information of upcoming events.

Staying Connected:

As always, I like to start by reminding all of our parents and carers to check out our vibrant Facebook page. It's a fantastic resource for staying updated on school events, student achievements, and important announcements. We share photos, videos, and exciting snippets of school life daily. Go online to see photos and updates on this week's amazing dance shows, our Year 8 basketball team's recent triumphs, highlights from the Year 12s Work Experience, celebrations of our girls football teams and our school trip to Boulogne in France to name just a few. There is also advice and guidance for parents and carers on how to keep your child safe online and what you need to know about popular apps and websites. So join us, if you haven't already.

Year 10 Books:

This term Year 10 took their books home to show their parents/carers all the great work they've done so far this year. The feedback from parents/carers has been overwhelmingly positive. We're very happy to hear you found it valuable in understanding your child's academic performance and we have taken on board the suggestions on what could be even better. This initiative will be extended to Years 7 and 8 next term and Year 9 in Term 5.

Next year's Year 7:

As you will all remember from when your children were in Year 6, last term saw parents across the country choosing which secondary school they wanted to send their children to in September. We are incredibly proud to announce that our popularity continues to rise in the community and a record number of parents placed us as their school of choice for September 2024. This incredible vote of confidence reflects the dedication of our staff and the supportive learning environment we foster. I would also like to say thank you to all of you who share your positive opinion of us with your friends and family. That is the best publicity we can get and it is much appreciated.

MCAS Communication:

Research and experience shows us that students who are more successful at school have parents that are actively involved in their child's education. Communication is a key part of that. To improve the timeliness of our replies to you, we introduced the contact form on the

website and the feedback I have received has been very positive about this. To communicate with parents and carers, we use My Child at School (or MCAS for short). This app/website allows you to get up to date information on your child including attendance and behaviour scores. If you don't have your account set up, or are having difficulties in doing so, please contact reception who will be able to help you out. I'm sure many of the parents/carers who already use the app would agree that it's a valuable resource to support their child's learning journey.

Supporting Food Tech lesson:

Our Food Technology curriculum equips students with vital life skills and fosters creativity in the kitchen. The sights, smells and tastes coming out of their classrooms are fantastic. To continue offering this enriching experience, we kindly request your contribution towards covering the costs of ingredients. Your valuable support will ensure our students have access to a diverse range of culinary explorations. If you are able to, we would greatly appreciate a contribution of £15 for the year towards the ingredients we purchase for the students. Contributions can be made via Parent Pay. Many thanks in advance.

Open Morning Tours:

We understand that for many of our parents, what goes on day-to-day at secondary school can seem a bit of a mystery. For many of you, you have never even had a chance to even look around the school (especially those of you who missed out on Year 6 Open Evening because of COVID). To address this we are inviting all parents/carers with children already in the school to join us for an Open Morning tour in March. Immerse yourself in our vibrant classrooms, meet our passionate teachers, and experience the dynamic spirit of our school community firsthand. Tours will start at 9.00am and finish at 10.30am and be led by your child's Head of Year. Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited, so please call reception to book your slot to come and see what makes our school truly special.

Year	Dates
7	19th & 26th March
8	14th & 21st March
9	14th & 21st March
10	4th March
11	12th & 28th March

Headteacher surgery:

To connect with you directly and address any questions or concerns you may have (or even just a helpful suggestion or two), I will be holding another open-door surgery from 3.30pm-6.30pm on Thursday, 7 March 2024. Please call reception to book a 10 minute appointment to discuss any aspect of the school.

Parking:

As has become an end of term custom, can I please remind all parents/carers to not park on the yellow zig zags outside of school. Parking there can endanger a child's life so, even

though it might mean parking a bit further away, please don't park on the yellow zig zags. Can you please also keep showing consideration to our neighbours and not block driveways, paths or roads when you park and wait for your child.

Gratitude to Our Staff:

This term wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts and dedication of our exceptional staff. They consistently go above and beyond to create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment for every student. Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of them.

I would like to end by wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming you back for another inspiring term on Monday, 19 February 2024.

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