

Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **End of Summer Term Letter**

I hope this letter finds you all well and looking forward to the summer. As we reach the end of another busy term (and year) here at the Sittingbourne School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the highlights and important information as we head into the summer break.

#### **Keep Up-to-Date on Facebook**

As usual, I would like to begin by pointing all parents/carers in the direction of our school Facebook page (just search The Sittingbourne School on Facebook). There you will see posts and videos about our recent national attendance prize, our amazing Year 11 prom, our new Prefects Team and a trip to Canterbury, to name just a few. It really is worth checking out so please find a few minutes to take a look.

#### **Exam Success**

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to our students in Years 11, 12 and 13 for the excellent effort so many of them showed towards their exams this term. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and commitment throughout the year and especially in the lead up to the exams. I know with the hard work and determination they have shown that we can expect some fantastic results in August.

#### **Year 6 Transition**

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming 280 of our new Year 6 students to the school. Over three days they participated in a range of induction activities and timetabled lessons. The feedback from staff was very positive and we're very excited to have them officially join The Sittingbourne School family in September.

#### **Relaunched Tutor System**

This week we reintroduced the tutor system to The Sittingbourne School. The aim of the tutor system is to increase the support network available to our students. In addition to their Head of Year and Pastoral Support Managers (PSM), students now meet with the tutor for 20 minutes at the start of every day. These sessions are designed to build strong relationships between students and their tutors. This in turn allows the tutors to play a vital role in supporting academic progress, social development and overall well-being. The sessions this week have been excellent and we look forward to tracking this positivity into the new academic year. As you may know, we have also made some changes to the leadership of the different year groups. From September, the year teams will be as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Leaders</b>	<b>Pastoral Support Managers</b>
7	Head of Year: Mr. A. Ball  Assistant Head of Year: Ms G. Long	Ms E. Harking-Page & Miss K. Hilton (KS3 Lead PSM)
8	Head of Year: Ms. K. Moss	Mr J. Jones & Mrs. L La-Haye
9	Head of Year: Miss G. Whiting	Mrs. T Claydon & Mrs K. McKenna
10	Head of Year: Mr. L. Barnes	Mrs. C. Cox & Mrs. L. Higgins
11	Head of Year: Mr R. Dengate	Mr. M. Judd (Lead KS4 PSM) & Mrs. S Town
Sixth Form	Head of Sixth Form: Ms N. Jones  Deputy Head of Sixth Form: Mr. B. La Haye	Mrs. J Belcher

Please continue to use the contact form to get in touch with your child's year team. The form can be found [here](#).

### **Mobile phones**

As you will know, last week saw the launch of our new mobile phone policy. The policy prevents students from using their phone whilst on site during the school day. The students have engaged incredibly well with the new policy. In turn, staff and visitors have all agreed how pleasing it has been to see the children engaging with each other and playing a range of sports and games at break and lunchtime. The playgrounds and canteen haven't been such a hive of activity for years. However, we appreciate that some students may struggle without their phones. If this applies to your child, please get in touch with their year team who can arrange for additional support.

### **Emails During the Holidays**

Please be reminded that staff are not directed to check their emails over the holiday. Some staff choose to check their emails on a sporadic basis and so might respond to emails at some point during the holiday. Other staff will not check their emails at all and so will not respond to

emails until term starts back in September. This includes matters such as Subject Access Requests. Your patience over the summer is much appreciated.

However, if there is an urgent safeguarding matter, please call the school office and they will pass the message on to our Duty Safeguarding staff.

### **A Gentle Reminder - Parking Outside of School**

With more students than ever in the school, it is understandable that the number of parents/carers picking their children up at the end of the day has increased. May I politely remind everyone to be mindful of parking. Please avoid blocking driveways and paths. Additionally, please help keep our community tidy by disposing of litter and cigarette butts responsibly.

### **End of term/start of term**

Please note that term ends for all students on Tuesday, 23 July 2024 at 12.50pm. Buses will depart from the school at 1.05pm.

Term starts again for our new Year 7s, Year 11 and Year 12 on Tuesday, 3 September 2024 at 8.35am. For all other year groups, term starts on Wednesday, 4 September 2024 at 8.35am. We look forward to seeing all students back in school then, in their full uniform and with a school bag big enough to take their books home with them.

Please be reminded that from September the school day will end at 3.10pm.

### **Thank You to Parents/Carers and Staff**

I would like to end by thanking all the parents and carers for their help and engagement over the year. Your support is greatly appreciated, as is your feedback. If you have a few minutes, we would love to hear your feedback via this parent/carer survey. Please let us know what works well and what you think needs to stop or change next year. The survey can be found [here](#).

Finally, I'm sure many of you would like to join me in thanking all of the wonderful staff here at The Sittingbourne School. They go above and beyond, day in, day out, for all of our students and work tirelessly to make sure every child can be the best they can be. We are very lucky to have them here at The Sittingbourne School.

Whatever you have planned for the summer, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. See you in September!

Warmest regards



Mr N Smith  
Headteacher