

Wednesday, 23 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **End of term letter - October 2024**

I hope you are all well. As our first term of the school year draws to an end I wanted to take a moment to share some of the highlights from the last few weeks here at the Sittingbourne School.

#### **Year 7's Excellent Start**

I am delighted to report that our Year 7 students have settled into secondary school life remarkably well. Their attendance, hard work and smart uniform has set them on a path to excellence. At the time of writing this, the Year 7 students have earned themselves nearly 23,000 achievement points! This means that Year 7 students have an average of 85 achievement points each. They have embraced the challenges and opportunities that come with this new chapter and are making excellent progress. We are very proud of them and I know you will be too.

#### **Open Evening and Open Mornings**

I am pleased to say that our recent Open Evening and Open Morning events were a resounding success, providing prospective families with a glimpse into the ambitious and supportive community that we have here. The feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive and the numbers through the door for both the evening and mornings are our highest yet as our popularity in the local community continues to grow. Thank you to all the staff and students who contributed to the success of these events.

Please note that this Thursday (24 October 2024) we have our Sixth Form Open Evening that starts at 5.00pm. We hope to see all the Year 11 parents/carers there to see what we have on offer for their children next year.

#### **Excellence in the Classroom**

Probably my personal highlight this term has been the excellent learning taking place in the classroom on a daily basis. I have been very impressed by the high-quality teaching and fantastic student effort I am seeing consistently around the school. Our dedicated teachers are providing engaging and stimulating lessons that inspire and motivate our students. In turn our students are focused and working hard in class, as evidenced by the great work in their books.

I am also proud of the progress we have made in developing our students' independence. The initiative to encourage students to take their books home and complete their homework regularly is bearing fruit, fostering a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. The quality of the

work in students' books is brilliant so I hope you are enjoying getting to see your child's work when they bring their books home every day.

### **Attendance**

Attendance remains a top priority at The Sittingbourne School. Research consistently shows a strong link between regular attendance and academic success and this is echoed in our students' outcomes. Students in last year's Year 11 who had attendance of 95%+ achieved on average grades of 4s, 5s and higher across their subjects. However, students with attendance of only 90% achieved an average grade of a grade 3. It is crucial that students attend school every day unless there is a valid reason for absence as grade 3s do not open as many doors for our students when they leave as grades 4s, 5s and above do.

### **Class Charts**

As most of you know, we are now using the Class Charts app to log and report praise and behaviour concerns. At present around 75% of parents/carers have signed up to the app and have used it to check their child's behaviour in school. If you haven't already, I strongly urge you to sign up so you can keep track of how your child is doing. It is also how we will alert you if your child has a detention.

On the topic of detentions, here at The Sittingbourne School, we understand that sometimes children make mistakes and genuinely forget things so a sanction would be a bit unfair. However, when some behaviours are repeated then sanctions will be applied. Please see the table below for the sanctions applied for repeat concerns:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Sanction</b>
3 equipment concerns in a term	30 minute after school detention
4 engagement alerts in a fortnight	60 minute after school detention
3 homeworks not handed in on time in a month	60 minute after school detention
3 uniform infringements in a term	30 minute after school detention
3 lack of PE kits in a term	30 minute after school detention
2 lates to lesson in a day	15 minute break time detention

### **Meetings by appointment only**

From Monday, 4 November 2024 onwards, meetings with staff at the school will be by appointment only. School staff and leaders have full daily schedules so are unable to meet people without adequate notice. Therefore, turning up unannounced often means a lengthy wait or having to speak with staff who are not best placed to deal with the issue. It is for these reasons we are asking parents and carers to not come to school without a pre-arranged appointment unless it is an absolute emergency. Instead, please use the contact form to arrange a meeting with the relevant member of staff. The form can be found [here](#).

## **End of Term/Start of Term**

Please be reminded that the school is closed to students on Friday, 25 October 2024 as staff will be taking part in training. Students will break up at 3.10pm on Thursday, 24 October 2024. The new school term starts at 8.35am on Monday, 4 November 2024.

You can find the term dates for this year and next year [here](#).

Please note that the term dates for 2025-26 are provisional and subject to change.

## **Facebook Updates**

As always, I encourage you to check out our Facebook page for regular updates on school events, achievements and important information. Over the past weeks we've been sharing the successes of our football teams, sharing a range of e-safety information and promoting a range of publicity events (including our new promotional video). If you have a few minutes, please visit and follow our Facebook page - just search for the Sittingbourne School.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership this term. Whatever you have planned for the half term break, we hope it's an enjoyable week.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Mr N Smith  
Headteacher