

Thursday, 19 December 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all well looking forward to the Christmas holiday. It's been another busy but very successful term here at The Sittingbourne School.

End of term festivities

Lesson time in the lead up to Christmas is no longer dominated by students watching Christmas films; teaching and learning remains front and centre stage right up until the end of term. However, we still had time for some Christmas spirit and celebrations. This week we have had rewards assemblies for all year groups, Christmas lunch for the students, Christmas jumper day and even a Sixth Form quiz planned and delivered by our Year 12 Business Studies students. Even with the days feeling very short, cold and dark, there's been a lovely, positive atmosphere around The Sittingbourne School.

Continued Excellence in the Classroom and beyond

It's been another term of excellence in the classroom. The quality of teaching & learning taking place across the school remains consistently high. However, we do not rest on our laurels and our standards and expectations continue to rise. The proportion of students regularly completing essential homework keeps increasing as does the quality of the students' work in their book. Please take the time to have a look at your child's books over the holiday and let them know what you think. I'm sure that for the vast majority of you there will be lots to praise your child for.

We love praising our students and I'm delighted to let you know that we've had over 63,000 positive points logged since September for students' positive attitude and hard work with their learning in class. Furthermore, so far this year I have handed out over 300 Headteacher Awards for learning, character, community or achievement. I'm very happy with how positive The Sittingbourne School is!

Attendance

This term we have continued our drive to increase attendance for all students. Our message remains the same: miss school, miss out. We know that with every percentage point drop in attendance a student has, the lower their chances of passing their exams become. Put simply, attendance is one of the biggest factors affecting a student's performance in exams. It was lovely this term to receive recognition for the hard work of our staff, students and parents/carers in trying to increase our attendance last year. The Fisher Family Trust identified us as in the top 25% of schools nationally for attendance for last school year. However, we know our students can get even better attendance so we won't ease up on our drive to have every child in school as much as possible. Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped in getting their children into school, even when sometimes they would rather have stayed at home. Please keep up the drive next term.

Uniform reminders

We know that a lot of our students will be getting new clothes, trainers or jewellery for Christmas. Whilst I am sure that they will bring a lot of joy to the children, please be reminded that trainers, hoodies, piercings and sweatshirts are not permitted in school. Therefore, please help us by making sure your child doesn't leave for school wearing banned items. We take no joy in confiscating these items but we have a uniform policy that applies to all students so all students must adhere to it.

BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero

As you may have seen in the local press, Adam Kenyon, one of our fantastic Site Team members and Head Coach for our amazing archery club, was chosen as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero winner for the South-East region. This was well deserved and we are very proud of Adam. We are very lucky to have him with us, sharing his expertise with our students and creating future star archers.

Rupert's Gold Award

For those who haven't had the pleasure of meeting him yet, Rupert is our school therapy dog who does a fantastic job working with a range of students, supporting them in many ways. I am proud to announce that Rupert has just been awarded a Gold Award from the Dog Mentor programme. This was for recognition of all the hard work he has put in over the last year mentoring our SEND students. Well done, Rupert!

Facebook

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page to see so many highlights from this term. Along with posts about our Sixth Form taster day, our new Studio Sessions that showcase our students' musical talents, Year 11s footballing success and much more, you can also see our new promotional video (which can also be found [here](#)). Head over to Facebook and search for The Sittingbourne School to find out more.

Thank you

I would like to end by thanking all the amazing The Sittingbourne School staff for their hard work and relentless drive to make sure every child gets the very best education possible. I don't think I've come across such an awesome collection of teachers and support staff in my 25 years as a teacher. I know both the students and I are lucky to have them here at The Sittingbourne School so I'm sure you'll join me in thanking them and wishing them a lovely Christmas.

I would also like to thank all of you for your continued support of the school. Helping children become young adults is not an easy job, but when we work together, like we do so often, we get some amazing results. Together we make a great team, so thank you.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and restful break. I look forward to seeing all the students back in school on Monday, 6 January 2025.

Warmest regards



Mr N Smith
Headteacher

A member of Swale Academies Trust

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