

Thursday, 22 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of term letter May 2025

As we approach the end of another busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Exams

This term has been particularly demanding for our students, especially those who have navigated the exam window with such diligence and commitment. I have been incredibly impressed by their hard work and resilience during this period. Well done to all of them. Several parents have enquired about study leave for their child in Year 11. In addition to a change in guidance from the Department for Education, the change has come about as this exam window is unlike previous years. We have more exams crammed into a shorter window. This means days with no exams are rarer. We also believe that the best place for a student to revise and develop their skills and understanding is with a qualified teacher of that subject.

Warm weather

Looking ahead to the warmer weather, I want to remind you that school uniform will still be required. As I have outlined in previous newsletters and in our Uniform Policy, school uniform is a key part of our work to raise standards and outcomes across the school. However, student wellbeing is a priority so to help students remain comfortable during the heat, we will be making the following temporary adjustments:

- Blazers will not be required to be worn around the school site.
- Students will be permitted to wear plain black school shorts.
- We are also increasing access to drinking water with additional taps being made available.

We believe these small changes will make a significant difference in ensuring our students can continue to focus on their learning in a more comfortable environment. However, we will monitor this closely to see if any additional measures need to be included.

Survey feedback

Thank you to everyone who filled in the Wellbeing survey last term. We value your feedback and have carefully considered the responses from our recent parental survey. The key themes raised were around communication, toilets and Wellbeing. I would like to share some of the actions we are taking in response:

Communication:

- The parental contact form is being updated to allow parents/carers to direct their enquiry to specific staff rather than just to the year team.
- We are also trying to find a way that will allow you to be updated with the status of your inquiry. For example, if it has been forwarded on or has been dealt with.
- In addition to sharing updates of events that have happened, we will be using our school Facebook page to advertise more upcoming events, such as our parent/carer surgeries and other important information.
- We will be updating and sharing a new The Sittingbourne School Communication Policy next term.

Toilets:

- From next term Class Charts will notify parents/carer every time their child has left their lesson to go to the toilet. This will allow parents/carers to monitor this behaviour and challenge it if necessary.
- Student Services will stock sanitary products for girls.
- Personal Development Time (PDT) will be used to raise awareness of the availability of these products.
- We will continue to monitor this situation and will update you as necessary.

Wellbeing Support:

- Our school website has been reviewed and updated with Wellbeing information.
- A letter has been sent to parents outlining who leads on Wellbeing and how to contact them.
- A Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) information booklet has been shared with parents/carers and is available on the website.
- Exam stress workshops were delivered to our Year 11 students.
- We now have a dedicated school counsellor.
- Our Wellbeing Team will be joining Year Team surgeries.
- We will be arranging a parental forum meeting to discuss wellbeing further.
- All parental workshops will be advertised online and via email.

Finally, some parents raised that they do not think that we do enough to celebrate the students who consistently get things right. To address this we will be introducing Academic Progress awards that specifically target these students. We will also enhance the quality assurance of our reward system to ensure that those who deserve the praise, get it.

Term 6 Parent/Carer surgeries

As I have already mentioned above, we really value your feedback. To that end, we will repeat our Parent/Carer surgeries next term. They will run from 3.30pm - 6.00pm on the following days:

- Year 11: Wednesday, 4 June 2025
- Headteacher Parental Surgery: Thursday, 19 June 2025
- Year 9: Monday, 23 June 2025
- Year 7: Tuesday, 24 June 2025
- SEND: Tuesday, 1st July 2025
- Year 10: Monday, 7 July 2025
- Year 8: Tuesday, 8 July 2025

To book a slot, please call the school's reception.

Child Centred Policing Team - Swale Community Day

On a community note, I am delighted to share information about a local event. We are excited to support the Child Centred Policing Team who are hosting their very first Swale community day on **Sunday, 8 June 2025** from **10.00am to 3.00pm** at **The Appleyard, Sittingbourne.**

There will be a host of local businesses and organisations present, including health organisations, domestic abuse charities, advice charities, and many more. Food and drinks will be available for purchase, and there will be plenty of fun and free activities to take part in!

End of day parking

Can I please politely ask that you show consideration to our neighbours when parking to collect your child at the end of the day. Please avoid blocking driveways, paths and access to roads. This will be greatly appreciated.

Fantastic staff

I would like to end by thanking all the dedicated and hardworking staff here at The Sittingbourne School for continuously going above and beyond to help provide the students here with a fantastic education. We are lucky to have them.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I wish you all a pleasant lead-up to the end of term and a happy half-term.

Kind regards



Mr N Smith
Headteacher