

Friday, 17 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this first term, I want to extend my thanks to everyone in our school community for what has been an overwhelmingly positive start to the academic year.

A Positive Start and Remarkable Achievements

It's been a very positive start to the year and it has been wonderful to see how quickly our newest students have integrated into The Sittingbourne School. Our Year 7s have settled in very well, as have our new Year 12s, and their engagement has been fantastic.

The hard work of all our students is reflected in our achievement point data. So far this term, we have logged over 128,000 achievement points! This is a tremendous figure, significantly up from 69,000 at the same point last year, and is a testament to the positive behaviour, effort, and high standards being set across the school.

Open Evenings and Mornings Success

Our recent Open Evening was our best attended yet, and our Open Mornings have also been incredibly successful. We were delighted to welcome so many prospective families, so many that we had to put on additional tours. We received wonderful feedback from parents commenting on the calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school. It was a great opportunity to show off the amazing lessons and learning taking place every day. For those of you who would like the opportunity to see the school for yourselves during a normal school day, please do not hesitate to call reception and we will be happy to book you a tour.

Parental Engagement: Meet the Tutor Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Tutor Evenings on Thursday, 9 October 2025 and Thursday, 16 October 2025. These evenings were well attended and received great feedback. I must stress the crucial importance of parental engagement in a child's success at school. Experience and evidence shows that when home and school work together, the outcomes for our students are significantly improved.

To further support this partnership, we are planning a range of events for the next term, including Year Team, SEND team and Headteacher surgeries for parents/carers, and other upcoming talks and workshops designed to support your child's studies. Details of these will follow soon.

Focus on Attendance

This term we have continued to focus on improving attendance, and while we have seen a significant increase compared to the same point last year, there is still room for improvement. The correlation between attendance and academic success is undeniable: pupils with 95%

attendance are twice as likely to achieve grades 5s and above in their GCSE English and Maths exams than those with between 90%-94% attendance.

Furthermore, student wellbeing is closely linked to school attendance. Studies have shown that chronic absenteeism is associated with higher risks of anxiety and depression. As parents and carers, you are our partners in ensuring your child is in school and well. Please encourage your child to keep their attendance as high as possible, and thank you for your ongoing effort in this regard.

For guidance on whether your child is too ill for school, please refer to the NHS page [here](#).

Equipment Reminder

Whilst the vast majority of our students arrive each day with the correct equipment, we are noticing an increase in those who don't. Having to interrupt learning to hand out equipment means lost learning time. Therefore can we politely ask that you ensure your child comes to school each day with the necessary equipment. The basics required for every student are:

- A bag big enough to carry A4 exercise books to and from school
- Black or blue ink pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Reading book (available from the school library)
- Reusable water bottle

Student Services is open before and after school, as well as at break and lunch, for students to get equipment if they forget something. If you are struggling to provide this essential equipment, please contact your child's Year Team and we will be happy to provide support.

Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you once again to everyone who completed the Parent/Carer Survey in the summer. We value your feedback greatly, and the survey has remained open. If you have not yet had the chance to fill it in, we would love to hear from you. It can be found [here](#).

Eco School Success

I am very proud to mention the recent success of our students in the Swale Academies Trusts Eco School competition at Peacehaven Community School in East Sussex. Pip and Hollie represented the school by creating art on the topic of nature and wildlife using materials that had been discarded by others. Our students drew significant praise from the organisers for their amazing and creative work.



School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Our School Improvement Plan for this year has been finalised and agreed upon by both the Swale Academies Trust and our Local Governing Body, following input from over 40 staff members.

Our overarching priority is to: Continue to raise academic standards and improve outcomes in all Key Stages by further developing independence in order to allow all The Sittingbourne School students to go "toe-to-toe" with students in all other schools.

A member of Swale Academies Trust

It is our ambitious aim that the skills, experiences and qualifications our students gain during their time at The Sittingbourne School will ensure they can challenge students from any school in the country when applying for colleges, jobs and universities. This is an aim we can, and must, achieve.

Diversity House

As part of our work with local charities, I would like to draw your attention to the range of exciting programmes and opportunities offered at Diversity House (located at ISP House, Church Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3EG)

Coming soon are the following:

- Swale Mums Peer Support Circles: Free support for expectant and new mums across Swale.
- Music 4 Wellbeing (learn to play Piano, guitar and other musical instruments). This workshop starts on Monday 3rd of November 2025.

A timetable of events is attached along with this letter. However, for more information, head over to www.diversityhouse.org.uk or call 01795 515075

Facebook

As always, don't forget to check our Facebook page for regular updates about life at The Sittingbourne School. Just search "The Sittingbourne School" and you'll find posts about our Open Evening, Meet the Tutor Evenings and the Swale Academies Trust's Ecofest competition to name a few, as well as practical tips and guidance for parents/carers on topics like social media and youth violence.

A Final Thank You

In closing, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to all the dedicated staff at The Sittingbourne School for their hard work and commitment this term, and to you, the parents and carers, whose support is invaluable to everything we do.

I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable end of term break. The term starts again on Monday, 3 November 2025.

Kind regards



Mr N Smith
Headteacher