

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We last sent out a news bulletin in March, but as we near the end of Term 5, please bear in mind the following items of information.

Term 6 begins on Monday 3rd June 2024 (Day 1) and is 35 days long. Term 6 ends on Friday 19th July 2024.

Attendance: Please remember that 90% attendance over a year means 4 weeks of missed school. Congratulations to the following form groups which have the highest attendance so far:

Year 7 - Bridge, Gordon and Pitt: 98%

Year 8 - Bridge, Gordon, Thetford and Tower: 97%

Year 9 - Bridge, Castle, Gordon and Thetford: 97%

Year 10 - Castle, River, Thetford and Tower: 96%

Year 11 - River : 94%

Year 12 - Tower: 97%

Year 13 - Bridge, Thetford and Tower: 91%

Reports: Years 11 & 13 received a written report in Term 4 which included an element on Character and participation. All other years will receive a written report this term.

Foundation Day: This compulsory event will go ahead on Saturday 6th July. The following Monday 8th July is a day of non-school attendance. Details will be published in the Summer term.

Timings of the school day: These change slightly during the exam period from 7th May to 21st June with break and lunch times each occurring an hour earlier than usual. The amended times for this duration can be viewed [here](#). From 22nd June the times will return back to normal.

Use of Sixth Form Study Centre after school hours: Senior students can use the silent study room and study centre after the end of the school day, until 6pm, for the purposes of completing classwork and homework and doing revision. Parents should

Reporting Absence: Parents should report their child's absence each day either by email to absence@sjwms.org.uk, or via the My Child at School App. If no contact is received to explain an absence, the school's Attendance Officer will make contact with parents. Further information can be found on our website [here](#).

Prize Giving Ceremonies: Junior Prize Giving for Years 8 and 9 will take place on Wednesday 19th June, and Senior Prize Giving for Years 10 and above will take place on Tuesday 16th July . More details will follow.

Non-participation of PE lessons: If your son/daughter is unable to participate in a PE or Games lesson, we cannot accept confirmation of this by email due to the nature of PE/Games lessons taking place outside of the classroom. Students will only be permitted to sit out if they have a physical paper letter with them, which must be written and signed by a parent detailing the date and reason for non-participation.

Detentions: Good order and discipline are essential to the provision of a high standard of education. Effective teaching and learning can only take place in a well ordered environment.

Our school manages behaviour extremely well so we can provide a calm, safe and supportive environment which our pupils want to attend and where they can learn and thrive. Detentions are a key part of this.

School calendar please check this regularly. School events, such as Parents' Evenings, inset days, mock exams and other events can all be found on our school calendar which is on our website: <https://sjwms.org.uk/events/>

Clubs and societies: we offer a range of activities to engage our students outside the classroom. The list is on our [website](#).

Year 12 Work Experience: this is due to take place between 8th - 12th July 2024.

Year 11 into 12 transition: we are delighted that 194 Year 11 students (95%) have applied for a place in our Sixth Form. Sixth Form Induction takes place between 9th - 12th July 2024.

Year 9 GCSE options: Year 9 students will commence these courses in Term 6.

End of year exams dates 2024:

Year 7: 3rd June - 14th June

Year 10: 17th June to 28th June

Year 12: 12th June to 21st June

Years 8 and 9 have already taken place.

Summer Concert: This takes place on Wednesday 3rd July at 6pm. Further details will follow.

Non-Uniform Days: in total we have raised over £7,000, so are grateful to students and families for their support. This money will be used to fund essential extra curricular activities.

Careers newsletter: Our term 5 careers newsletter can be viewed [here](#)

Year 11 Pre-exam subject intervention: we have organised a process whereby identified Year 11 students are invited to participate in exam support sessions during periods 4 and 5 on the afternoon before an exam the following day. Attendance at these sessions remains obligatory even though Year 11 are on study leave.

GCSE and A Level Exams for Years 11 & 13: these commenced on 8th May and finish on 21st June. We wish our students the very best and hope their hard work is rewarded. Result days are 15th August for A Levels and 22nd August for GCSE.

RMSA, Secondhand Uniform:

We continue to be immensely proud of the tireless fundraising efforts of our parents association, the RMSA. [Click here](#) to find more details including how to volunteer your time.

The RMSA have adopted a way for parents to purchase second hand uniform using uniform.co.uk.

Please visit this site if you would like to see what 2nd hand uniform is currently available and to make a purchase.

School Uniform Providers: A reminder that items of school uniform can be purchased from both [Tacklebag](#) and [Monkhouse Schoolwear](#) (previously Simmonds). Both providers are able to supply the 5 mandatory branded items of uniform (tie, blazer badge, rugby jersey, rugby shorts and rugby socks) as well as other essential items, which can also be purchased from High Street retailers if preferred.

Please note that prices charged by both suppliers are different, and Tacklebag, because it's an online only provider, charges less.

Safeguarding: permeates every aspect of our school and influences all decisions and actions taken by our staff. Our [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#) describes this aspect of our work, and the [Safeguarding pages](#) of our website are very useful. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Morris, and he is supported by 2 Deputy DSL's, 7 Heads of Year and 3 Heads of School/Key Stage. Each Key Stage has 2 or 3 non-teaching pastoral support staff. We have 5 Mental Health First Aiders, 6 Learning Support Assistants, 3 ELSA practitioners and 2 Counsellors. If your son or daughter needs help or support, or you are worried about another child, please don't hesitate to contact us on office@sjwms.org.uk or safeguarding@sjwms.org.uk.

The school field and ball games: as usual in the summer months, we open the school field at break and lunchtime so students can play ball games in a larger area. Food and drink is not permitted on the field as litter is unsightly and can be dangerous if shredded by the mower. Please reinforce this message.

Sports Fixtures: all our fixtures can be found on <https://sport.sjwms.org.uk/>, our dedicated microsite. All players and supporters can find future games and current results on this site.

Character Merits: in order to recognise and reward the character traits we are seeking to develop in our students, we encourage staff to issue Merits for each trait. So far this year:

Ambitiousness/Excellence: 21,560 (academic merits)	Politeness: 69
Courtesy: 359	Determination: 2,716
Acceptance: 65	Self-discipline: 2,571
Respect: 542	Co-operation: 1,392

House Events: our fiercely contested House Championship is in full swing this year. Parents can keep up to date with all events and the current standings via our [House System website](#).

Trips: So far this year we have had trips to the Houses of Parliament, Greenwich Maritime Museum, Camber Sands, Kew Gardens, a Ski trip to Austria in February, a residential trip to Paris, a rugby tour to Bristol, Thorpe Park in May, the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, supporting runners at the London Marathon (including Mr Burgess). We have planned a visit to Dorset for the year 8 PGL trip in term 6, the CAMPS International expedition to Tanzania is in July 2024, and the Rotterdam Hockey Tour in October 2024.

Last day of term arrangements: School finishes at 3.10pm as normal on Friday 24th May.

Kind regards,
School Office