

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We last sent out a news bulletin in May, but as we are at the end of Term 6, please bear in mind the following items of information.

**Term 1** begins on Monday 2nd September 2024 (Day 1) and is 34 days long. Term 1 ends on Thursday 17th October 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, Tower and Pitt: 98%

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

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

Year 10 - Castle, Thetford and Tower: 96%

Year 12 - Tower: 97%

**Reports:** Term 6 reports will be issued to Years 7, 10 and 12 this term which will advise on the end of year exam results.

**School Uniform Providers:** Our two uniform suppliers, [Tacklebag](#) and [Monkhouse Schoolwear](#) (previously Simmonds) will be supplying the full range of SJWMS Uniform and PE Kit over the summer break. Both providers 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. The list of required uniform can be found on our website [here](#).

**Sixth Form Induction:** Year 11 students attended our 4 day Sixth Form induction between the 9th and 12th July. We look forward to GCSE results day on 22nd August. Details of what students need to do to secure their place in our Sixth Form has been posted on Applicaa.

**A level and GCSE Results Days:** results will be available to collect in the sixth form study centre from 8am on 15th August for A Levels, and from 9am on 22nd August for GCSE's. Further information has been posted in the Year 11 and 13 Google Classrooms and on MCAS. We wish our students all the very best.

**Year 12 Work Experience:** this occurred between 8th - 12th July and we are very pleased with how our students tackled being in a workplace. The feedback from employers has been enormously positive.

**Online safety:** we continue to be mindful of the risks to our students associated with the increased time spent online. We make regular posts in Google Classrooms to help raise awareness and encourage sensible online behaviour, and strongly encourage parents to exercise heightened curiosity about what their son or daughter is doing online.

Keeping our students safe online is an absolute priority for the school.

Our various 'Acceptable Use' policies aim to set out what students should do to stay safe online.

The most important document is the [Student Acceptable Use Policy](#).

These provide common sense pointers on how to operate in the online environment.

In the unlikely event of having to implement remote learning, we have [a document](#) which addresses the dos and don'ts for safe online learning. A similar one exists for staff.

**School Mock General Election:** In order to promote political debate and help our students engage with the key political debates of the moment, our Politics Department under the leadership of Dr Bidmead hosted a Mock General Election, culminating with a vote on polling day.

We have been delighted with how our students have responded to the hustings, poster campaigns and assemblies from senior students representing the main political parties. We commend them all on the quality of their debate and discourse, and respect for differing viewpoints.

The voter turnout for our Mock Election was nearly 70%, and the winning party was Labour with 31% of the vote.

**Prize Giving:** Our Senior Prize giving took place on Tuesday 16th July and we were delighted to issue over 100 prizes to some worthy winners in years 10 and 12. The guest of honour was Mr Rajan Lal, an ex-student, past Senior prefect, graduate and current fellow of Cambridge University.

**Careers newsletter:** Our term 6 careers newsletter can be viewed [here](#)

**Parents & Carers Cyber Choices webinars:** Kent Police Cyber Crime unit have set up more opportunities to join their Cyber Choices and Online Safety webinar sessions for parents and carers over the summer. The sessions are free and the links to sign up for the sessions can be found [here](#).

**Reporting Absence:** Parents should report their child's absence each day either by email to [absence@sjwms.org.uk](mailto: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](#).

**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/>

**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.

**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](http://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. Please note this site will be closed for the summer break but will re-open in September.

**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/>. Events for next academic year will be added during the Summer break.

**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](#).

**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: 26,845 (academic merits)

Courtesy: 527

Acceptance: 77

Respect: 643

Politeness: 90

Determination: 3,351

Self-discipline: 3,111

Co-operation: 2,186

**Trips:** Since last term we have had trips to PGL Dorset for Year 8, various Geography trips and our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. The CAMPS International expedition to Tanzania is leaving imminently. We look forward to next year with the Rotterdam Hockey Tour in October 2024, the Barcelona cultural trip and the annual ski trip to Austria in February.

**Last day of term arrangements:** School finishes today at 3.10pm as normal.

Kind regards,

School Office