

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We last sent out a news bulletin in July, but as we reach the end of Term 1, please bear in mind the following items of information:

**Term 2** begins on 6th November (Day 1) and ends on Friday 15th December.

**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 - 7Go, 7Pi, 7Br and 7Th: 99%

Year 8 - 8Th: 98%

Year 9 - 9Ca and 9Th: 97%

Year 10 - 10Ri: 96%

Year 11 - 11Go, 11To and 11Th: 97%

Year 12 - 12Ri and 12Br: 98%

**Reports:** A Term 1 report was issued to all year groups at the end of Term 1. It shows Working at Grades for only English, Mathematics and Science, and effort grades for all subjects.

**Mock Exams:** these commence for Year 11 on 13th November and Year 12 class tests begin on 6th November.

**Year 9 GCSE option choices:** GCSE Options Evening is scheduled for 25th January, and the deadline for choices is 2nd February. To assist students in making wise choices, our Careers Coordinator Miss Halls, along with Head of Middle School Mr Coate, will be delivering guidance assemblies and providing important information on Unifrog. Students should keep an eye out for further details.

**Year 9 Science Test:** to help us give a recommendation for GCSE Triple or Combined Science, Year 9 students will be taking a science test on Tuesday 7th November in the morning, period 1. Revision materials have been published by the Science Department.

**Year 7 Parents Evening:** is on Tuesday 21st November via SchoolCloud. Those staff who teach more than 3 classes will have additional slots available on a second date. Year 7 parents will be contacted a couple of weeks prior to the parents' evening with further details on how to sign up to SchoolCloud.

**Year 6 Open Day and tours:** we are enormously grateful to our Year 8 students who acted as guides and toured visitors around the school in the weeks before Open Day and at the event. Our guides demonstrated all the character virtues that we aspire to develop within our students, and have been great ambassadors for us.

**Chromebooks:** these are a superb tool to enhance learning, but students need to work on their ability to manage their emails, task lists and Drive folders, and we will be doing some work in tutorials to assist this.

**Carol Service:** Monday 11th December at Rochester Cathedral at 7.30pm. Keep an eye out for more details.

**Year 12 Parents' Evening:** Tuesday 5th December, using the SchoolCloud software.

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

**Year 7 Academic support/homework club:** takes place on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays after school at 3.15pm in the DaVinci block.

**Careers newsletter:** Our Term 1 careers newsletter can be [viewed here](#)

**Student conduct:** students continue to show very positive and mature attitudes. We will always place a premium on courtesy, civility and manners, and are pleased to see these remain. Some students may be out of practice with our expectations about work, effort, conduct, routines and manners. Next-day detentions are a key part of this, and we ask for parents' continued support in ensuring students behave and work exceptionally well. Here is a [guide](#) to what we expect.

**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/>

**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 new way for parents to purchase second hand uniform using [uniformd.co.uk](http://uniformd.co.uk). Please visit this site if you would like to see what 2nd hand uniform is currently available and to make a purchase.

**Belts:** we have observed a growing trend for large, chunky, elaborate and statement belt buckles. Whilst uniform guidelines (see page 8 of our [Behaviour Policy](#)) make no reference to these items, we would ask that parents help students exercise common sense with the choice of belt buckles.

**Library Books:** Please view the information regarding library book loans, returns and library usage [here](#).

**The Williamsonian:** The 2022/23 addition of The Williamsonian has now been published and circulated by email to all families. Many thanks to Mr Meadows who edited this edition.

**Single Lunch:** The move from a split lunch arrangement to all students experiencing a single lunch session at 1.25pm has been in place since the start of term. We commend our students on their flexibility and maturity and our view is that the single lunch is working well. Food availability and queue length have not been raised as a concern.

**Cucina:** Our catering service is provided by Cucina, a private company on contract with all Leigh Academies Trust schools. All food service, menu choice and payment systems are managed by this company. Cucina welcomes feedback from parents and can be contacted at [catering@sjwms.org.uk](mailto:catering@sjwms.org.uk) or [sjwms@impactfood.co.uk](mailto:sjwms@impactfood.co.uk)

**Wisepay queries:** Wisepay is the system by which parents pay for all activities and services (school fund, trips, catering balances, revision guides, chromebook contributions, etc). Any Wisepay queries (most frequently password reset or account access issues) should be directed to [office@sjwms.org.uk](mailto:office@sjwms.org.uk). These will be dealt with during term time only.

**Incorrect kit for PE & Games:** a reminder that as with school uniform we expect students to wear appropriate PE and games kit. The requirements can be found [here](#). Students who wear incorrect kit can expect to be sanctioned, these are called 'K' sanctions to differentiate them from other behaviour sanctions.

**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.

**Parking:** as many more parents are driving students to school please be mindful of safe and considerate driving and parking when dropping off and collecting students before and after school. Local residents and general members of the public have contacted us regarding cases of inconsiderate parking and dangerous driving on Maidstone Road. The safety of our students when travelling to and from school must remain a priority. Driving onto the school site is not permitted before or after school to help keep our students safe, unless previously agreed in advance with reception. Please consider parking safely further away from the school to meet your son/daughter.

**Mobile phones:** a reminder that if pupils in all Year groups make their phones visible, or attempt to use them during the school day at any time (except in a classroom at the invitation of the teacher), they will be confiscated. The item will be given to the relevant Pastoral Office (Lower or Middle School) who will contact parents. The phone will only be returned if collected by a parent. Sixth Formers will be invited to collect their own phones if they are confiscated.

**Safeguarding:** permeates every aspect of our school and influences all decisions and actions taken by our staff. Our [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](mailto:office@sjwms.org.uk) or [safeguarding@sjwms.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sjwms.org.uk).

**Unite Group:** this is our LGBT+ student awareness and support group which meets every Wednesday lunchtime. It is an inclusive community of students who share thoughts and ideas and anyone is welcome to attend.

**School Council:** we call our group the 'Rights Respecting School Council' because we are an accredited UNICEF Rights Respecting School. This designation recognises our achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond. The Council meets termly.

**Year 11 intervention:** each subject has a fixed revision/intervention slot after school once a fortnight. We encourage our Year 11 students to attend to help them through their GCSE courses. Students should speak to their subject teacher if they are unsure of the particular day.

**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: 5,375 (academic merits)

Courtesy: 120

Acceptance: 13

Respect: 211

Politeness: 12

Determination: 606

Self-discipline: 369

Co-operation: 284

**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](#).

**Sixth Form Applications:** our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Monday 8th January starting at 6.30pm. Year 11 students should attend. The closing date for applications is Monday 22nd January.

**Trips:** So far this term we have had trips to the Houses of Parliament, Greenwich Maritime Museum, Camber Sands and Kew Gardens, as well as the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. We look forward to trips next year to Paris, an expedition to Tanzania, and the Rotterdam Hockey Tour in October 2024.

**Last day of term arrangements:** School will end at 2.15pm on the last day of Terms 2 and 6, but at the usual time of 3.10pm at the end of all other terms.

Kind regards,  
School Office