

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We last sent out a news bulletin in November, but as we near the end of Term 2, please bear in mind the following items of information:

**Term 3** is 28 days long, begins on 3rd January 2024 (Day 3) and ends on Friday 9th February.

**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 - Pitt: 99%

Year 8 - Thetford: 98%

Year 9 - Castle, Gordon and Thetford: 97%

Year 10 - River and Tower: 96%

Year 11 - Gordon and Tower: 97%

Year 12 - Bridge, River, Thetford and Tower: 97%

Year 13 - Thetford and Tower: 95%

**Reports:** Term 2 reports will be issued to Years 11 and 13 only at the end of this term, and Year 12 will receive their class test results.

**Mock Exams:** these commence for Year 13 on 3rd January. The exam timetable has been posted on the year group classroom.

**Year 9 Parents' Evening:** is on Thursday 4th January, using the School Cloud software.

**Year 9 GCSE option choices:** GCSE Options Evening is scheduled for 25th January at 7pm, and the deadline for choices is Friday 2nd February. Choices will be made via a Google Form. Year 9 had an introduction assembly on 29 November, and Triple/Combined science recommendation letters will be sent home at the start of next term. Please [click here](#) to view a copy of a letter sent to all parents of Year 9 parents last year (when they were in Year 8) giving details of the relationship between Mathematics sets and Science options.

**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 (which will be made via software called 'Applicaa') is Monday 22nd January.

**Prefects:** new Year 12 Prefects were appointed this term, and served their first duty at the Carol Service. We are hugely reliant on these high-calibre individuals, who go through a robust selection process, involving a voting procedure and interviews. Congratulations to our chosen Prefects. The new School Captain and Deputies are selected at Easter.

**Non-Uniform Day:** this took place on 22nd November and raised £2,526.00. This money will be used to help support school projects. The next one is on 28th February.

**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.

**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.

**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 2 Careers Newsletter can be [viewed 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/>

**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.

**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.

**Kent Police helpful guidance:** We've been asked by Kent Police to share the following guidance relating to popular Christmas presents for children and young people:

[E-scooters, breaking the law,](#)

[A Parent's guide to Nintendo,](#)

[Playstation parent guide,](#)

[XBox family & online safety](#)

[Golden Rules - Online safety information for parents and carers,](#)

[Parents guide to TikTok,](#)

[Parents guide to Whatsapp,](#)

[Parent guide to snap chat,](#)  
[Keeping your children safe: online & beyond.](#)

**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.

**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: 10,272 (academic merits)	Politeness: 33
Courtesy: 247	Determination: 1,963
Acceptance: 36	Self-discipline: 956
Respect: 259	Co-operation: 571

**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 and Kew Gardens, as well as the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. We look forward to trips next year to Paris, skiing in Austria, an expedition to Tanzania, and the Rotterdam Hockey Tour in October 2024.

**U15A Kent Cup victory:** - congratulations to our U15 rugby team, captained by Mihail in 10 Pitt, for winning the Kent Cup for the second year in a row.

**Last day of term arrangements:** In an amendment to the notice in our previous bulletin, because of timings of school buses we will no longer be finishing school earlier on the last day of term 2 so school will end at the usual time of 3.10pm.

Kind regards,  
School Office