

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We last sent out a news bulletin in November, but as we near the end of Term 3, please bear in mind the following items of information:

Term 4 is 29 days long, begins on 19th February (Day 1) and ends on Thursday 28th March.

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 - Gordon, Pitt and Tower: 98%

Year 8 - Thetford and Gordon: 97%

Year 9 - Castle, Gordon and Thetford: 97%

Year 10 - Thetford and Tower: 96%

Year 11 - Gordon: 97%

Year 12 - Thetford and Tower: 97%

Year 13 - Thetford: 95%

Reports: Term 3 reports will be issued to all years by the end of term. They can also be viewed on your My Child at School app.

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](#).

Year 11 Mock Exams: these commence for Year 11 on 19th February. [Click here](#) to view the timetable.

Year 9 GCSE options: the deadline for Year 9 students to submit their options form was 2nd February, and the Middle School Office will make contact with individual students should the need arise. We have been able to accommodate everyone's choices, and look forward to Year 9 starting their GCSE courses in Term 6.

Sixth Form applications: we have been delighted by the numbers of students, both from our Year 11 cohort and externally, who have applied to join us next year. The next stage in the process is Sixth Form Induction between 9th to 12th July 2024.

Year 10 Parents' Evening: is on Wednesday 21st February, using the School Cloud software.

Non-Uniform Day: the next non-uniform day takes place on Wednesday 28th February. [This letter](#) has been sent to all parents.

Spring Concert (Years 7-11): is on Wednesday 6th March at 7pm. Further details to follow.

RMSA Quiz Night: is on Friday 8th March at 7pm in the school hall. Full details can be found [here](#).

School Production: Our school production this year is 'Bonnie and Clyde'. Performances will take place on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd March starting at 7pm in the school hall. Further details will follow next term.

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 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.

Year 11 and 13 Easter Revision Sessions: We will be putting on our usual programme of Easter booster sessions for GCSE and A level students over the Easter break. Keep an eye out for the schedule.

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. The session timetable can be [viewed here](#).

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.

Trainer Wearing: We've noticed an increase in the number of students who are wearing trainers to school saying that their school shoes are damaged or too small. Students must bring a note in and they must report to the relevant pastoral office as soon as they arrive in school so they can be issued with an 'inappropriate uniform' one day pass. Students for whom this is a regular occurrence can expect a sanction.

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.

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.

Measles information: please click on [this link](#) to read some information from Medway Council about measles.

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/>

SJWMS Parent and Student Voice Surveys: each year we undertake an annual survey of our parents and students' views on the school and students' experiences. This survey gives us information about behaviour, bullying, safety, learning and teaching, and the results are overwhelmingly positive with an average of 97% of parents and students reporting positively. We will give some more detail about the survey and our response in the new term.

Leigh Academies Trust pupil, parent and staff survey: each year LAT also undertakes a large scale survey to capture the views of parents and pupils. This survey went live on 29th January, please take a few moments to complete it as it gives us very valuable feedback.

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

Careers newsletter: Our Term 3 Careers Newsletter can be [viewed here](#).

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.

Cucina: Our catering service is provided by Cucina, a private company on contract with all Leigh Academies Trust schools. All food service, [menu choice, prices](#) and payment systems are managed by this company. Cucina welcomes feedback from parents and can be contacted at 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. 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](#) under the 'Our Uniform' section. 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.

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 or safeguarding@sjwms.org.uk.

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: 12,905 (academic merits)

Courtesy: 264

Acceptance: 46

Respect: 309

Politeness: 41

Determination: 2,113

Self-discipline: 1,305

Co-operation: 715

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.

The Ski trip to Austria and the residential to Paris are departing imminently. We look forward to PGL Dorset in Summer 2024, the CAMPS International expedition to Tanzania July 2024, and the Rotterdam Hockey Tour in October 2024.

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

Kind regards,
School Office