

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We last sent out a news bulletin in February, but as we near the end of Term 4, please bear in mind the following items of information:

Term 5 is 29 days long, begins on 15th April (Day 1) and ends on Friday 24th May.

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 - Bridge and Gordon: 97%

Year 9 - Castle, Gordon and Thetford: 97%

Year 10 - River, Thetford and Tower: 96%

Year 11 - Bridge, Pitt, Gordon, Thetford and Tower : 96%

Year 12 - Tower: 97%

Year 13 - Thetford: 96%

Reports: Year 11 and 13 only will receive a Report in Term 4, these will be sent by the end of term. They can also be viewed on your My Child at School app.

Easter Revision Sessions: GCSE and A Level revision sessions for Years 11 and 13 will take place over the Easter break. The programme can be found [here](#).

Timings of the school day: These will 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](#).

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 8 & 9 End of Year Exams: these commence for Year 9 on 15th April, and for Year 8 on 29th April.

GCSE and A Level Exams for Years 11 & 13: these commence on 9th May, 2.5 weeks before the end of Term 5. We wish our students the very best and hope their hard work is rewarded. Students timetables have been circulated on My Child at School, and individual final timetables will be distributed to students next term.

Year 13 Leavers' Photos: these will be taken by Kittle Photographic during the morning of Wednesday 17th April.

Td/IPV and Men ACWY vaccinations (School Leavers Booster): Year 9, plus Year 10 & 11 catch up - 7th and 8th May. We have been asked to remind parents about the importance of vaccination uptake - please [click here](#) for further information from the Public Health immunisation team which was also provided to Year 9 students recently.

Medway Public Health: following a rise in measles cases, the NHS are urging parents and carers to make sure their children are up to date with their MMR vaccinations. Please see further information [here](#).

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: We are pleased with the uptake of the Bronze and Silver award in Years 9 and 10 and look forward to the success of our Gold cohort after a period of absence.

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

Year 9 GCSE options: Year 9 students have submitted their GCSE choices and will commence these courses in Term 6.

Year 8 Parents' Evening: is on Thursday 9th May, using the School Cloud software.

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

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.

Non-Uniform Day: the 2nd non-uniform day took place on Wednesday 28th February and raised over £2,000. Our 3rd and final non-uniform day is on Wednesday 8th May.

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.

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](#).

Punctuality to School: Students are expected to be punctual to school and must arrive by 8.20am in order to be at registration for 8.25am. While we recognise some lateness may be unavoidable, for example delayed buses or traffic congestion, we have noticed a slight increase in the number of students who are late to school without good reason. This means they miss valuable educational input at tutorial time and possibly the start of lessons. Our punctuality consequences can be found [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.

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/>

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. 97% of parents agreed that the school makes sure pupils are well behaved, 95.5% say pupils are well taught, and 94% that they are making good progress. 93% of students told us that behaviour in their lessons is good. 96% of students told us that bullying is not a problem but if it does happen, it is dealt with effectively.

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 4 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 [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.

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: 17,719 (academic merits)

Courtesy: 304

Acceptance: 53

Respect: 499

Politeness: 59

Determination: 2,372

Self-discipline: 1,987

Co-operation: 1203

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, the Ski trip to Austria, a residential trip to Paris, and a rugby tour to Bristol. We look forward to Thorpe Park in May, the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, supporting runners at the London Marathon (including Mr Burgess), 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 on Thursday 28th March as normal.

Kind regards,
School Office