

18 July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we finish the school year, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their support. I would also like to thank publicly our school staff, for their dedication and service to the school.

Senior leaders, middle leaders and teaching staff are pleased both with how well year group cohorts and individuals within them have completed end of year assessments and with their progress throughout the year. There have been many highlights to our school year but the over-riding theme is one of embedding those school routines that help sustain our community and the ethos of our faith school.

I would be very grateful if you would support us by going through the end of year report with your child and ensure that your child carries out the summer transition work or homework set by departments in response to learning gaps identified in the recent assessments. The work is not designed to be onerous and can be spread out over the summer break rather than completed in one single block.

We look forward to welcoming new members of this community in September. It was a real pleasure to meet our new Year 6 students and their parents at the recent induction day, with pupils travelling from primary schools both near and far. It will be wonderful to see them in September all proudly wearing their new STA school uniform, ready to make new friends, to work with their teachers and to enjoy new experiences and activities. We have a very talented group of teachers joining us in September, who have already visited us for their summer Induction Day, whom we will be introducing in person and via the newsletter. We wish a fond farewell, too, to those who are leaving, who have given so much to the school.

The information in the attached booklet gives existing parents and carers a clear outline of what we expect. We are delighted that visitors to the school and those in the local community commend our students on their behaviour and attitude. Please do read it carefully. A new academic year is a chance to enhance our standards, and uniform is a demonstrable part of this. Please ensure that any school shoes purchased over the summer fit within our expectations. Girls who choose to wear skirts must ensure they have a skirt that can be worn at a length that is in-line with our expectations. Where there are ongoing uniform concerns, parents/carers will be contacted to resolve any issue. Sixth formers must follow the expectations on the school website relating to dress code.

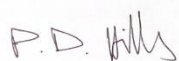
As we turn our attention to the start of the next academic year, I wanted to write to you with some important messages. School will recommence for ALL students on **Thursday 5 September 2024**. We will have a staggered start for all students as below:

Wednesday 4 September 2024	Arrival Times	Building	Key instructions
Year 7	8.30am	5	Students should wait in the canteen in Building 5
Year 12	9.30am	4	Students should enter the building and wait for their form tutors on the grass area in the inner courtyard of Building 4.
Thursday 5 September 2024	Arrival Times	Building	Key instructions
Year 7	8.30am	5	Students should wait in the canteen in Building 5.
Year 8	9.45am	4	Students should line up in single file by the glass doors leading into building 4, along the demarcated area.
Year 9	9.45am	5	Students should line up in the upper school playground.
Year 10	10.55am	4	Students should line up in single file by the glass doors leading into building 4, along the demarcated area.
Year 11	10.55am	5	Students should wait by the ball court in Building 5.
Year 12	9.30am	4	Students should enter the building and wait for their form tutors on the grass area in the inner courtyard of Building 4.
Year 13	10.55am	4	Students should enter the building and make their way to the sixth form area, from where they will be directed to their form rooms

Our new Year 7s will be studying Spanish rather than French next year, alongside Latin. Year 8 will continue to study French together with an additional period of Latin in place of the single period of Greek. In the long run, we believe that the changes will encourage more students to continue with a language at GCSE. In the short term, the change will combine with our 'root words' initiative to help all students to expand their English vocabulary.

Finally, please see the information in the attached booklet and on our website, which will give you all the information you need for the next academic year. If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us through the usual channels. I look forward to seeing all of our students in September, and to meeting parents at various school events. I wish you all a restful, restorative and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Philip Hills
Headteacher

Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, as God forgave you."