



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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15th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write this letter whilst the Year 11s are midway through their first full week of exams. Thus far, students have made a positive start and are seeming to manage their anxieties and fears well. It is worth mentioning that whilst the exams are in full flow, Year 11 students still need some relaxation time. This is such an important aspect of the exam process and will help in reducing the feeling of burnout. The exams are as much about the students pacing themselves and modifying revision plans as each exam is completed. The focus from Year 11 this week has been excellent and we look forward to it continuing as the exam period progresses. Keep up the good work and do yourselves proud.

As teachers we always recognise the importance of lifelong learning and value the contributions that our staff make beyond the curriculum. Joanna Clark, one of our fantastic scientists, has made a significant contribution to research into cancer. Prior to joining us, Miss Clark was part of a research team that looked at cell rotation. This work recently hit the news. The news article and report can be found via the two links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48290757>

<http://jcb.rupress.org/content/217/9/3057>

I often think about the teachers who have inspired me and hope that some of our students will look back at the inspirational work their teachers have been involved with outside of the classroom. The work to which Miss Clark contributed should inspire all of us to try and make a difference in any way we can.

Despite the variable weather, we again took part in the English Schools Athletics competition at Stantonbury. A number of students qualified for the next round of their events and now qualify for the county competition. There were some outstanding performances: Shawn Ampofo jumped 12.67m in his triple jump, Liberty Young finished 2nd in Intermediate discus, Leo Standring won the intermediate boys' javelin, and the year 7/8 boys' relay team won their race by a massive 25m. The sheer determination from the students combined with their super talent means we have some outstanding athletes at STFS. Thank you to the PE team for their excellent coaching and leadership. Well done!

Our Year 12 scientists have been out of school over the last few days conducting Biology field work in the South Wales countryside. The timing of the visit could not have been better; looking at Mr Matthew's burnt forehead, the weather was clearly glorious. The experience the students gained from such work could not be matched in the classroom; to be able to work as a scientist in the field and see processes through from start to finish is fantastic. Thank you to Mr Matthews and Mrs Bartley for their outstanding efforts, support and organisation. The sheer volume of paperwork for organising a trip and the 24/7 responsibility on such a residential is a huge undertaking for any teacher. Mr Matthews is already busy planning next year!



Summer Calendar dates:

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| 11 th June | – Yr 12 Parents’ Evening | 17 th -21 st June | – Yr 8 French trip to Normandy |
| 26 th June | – Yr 8 Parents’ Evening | 27 th June | – Sports Day |
| 28 th June | – School closed for INSET day | 1 st -5 th July | – Yr7 Bushcraft trip |
| 2 nd & 3 rd July | – Yr 6 Transition days | | |

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers not to allow any extreme haircuts/colours/piercings. I appreciate that fashion means that haircuts are faded but our policy still requires that nothing goes below a grade 2 haircut. I know how tempting a new hair colour shade can be. However, I would like to say that the colours that claim they wash out after two washes, often do not. I say these things as someone who would love to have colour other than grey in my hair and indeed hair that wasn’t receding. So, I urge the students to keep their length and colour whilst they have it.

Unfortunately, we still struggle to have use of a sports field. Bucks CC continue to impose charges on the school for use of a field which sits empty 5 days a week. We continue to try and solve our lack of sports field and look forward to a forthcoming meeting with the Council.

On a more positive note, the recent rewards trip saw students from year 7 through to year 10 enjoying a day at Gravity. The students had a brilliant day and thoroughly enjoyed the reward for their outstanding efforts at school. Activities from trampolining to climbing kept the students busy and allowed them to celebrate their success in style. Well done to all involved.

Have a fantastic half term, and we look forward to seeing everyone safe and well on Monday 3rd June.

Yours sincerely,



Neale Pledger
Headmaster

