



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

BUCKINGHAM ROAD
WINSLOW
MK18 3GH
(01296) 711853

WEB: WWW.SIRTHOMASFREMANTLE.ORG

12th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Gertrude Jekyll, the British Horticulturalist said **“There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer”**. This is certainly true as we approach the end of another half term. The preparations for the Summer exams are in full flow and the fine tuning of revision makes this as evident as ever. It is so important that the students remind themselves that the most effective revision strategy is little and often. This allows students time to process the knowledge they are consuming and then create opportunities to test their retrieval. It is essential that students recognise the value and importance of a clear revision schedule. As parents and carers you have a crucial role in supporting the revision and also ensuring that your son or daughter has rest breaks. Revision can be a very lonely place, so please do speak to your son or daughter’s form tutor if you need any advice on to how best to support your child in the coming weeks.

We are absolutely delighted with the volume of Sixth Form applications. We have seen a significant rise in numbers and feel a great sense of anticipation for September. We are now in the process of interviewing each applicant and discussing with them their plans for the future. It is always a fascinating discussion to have with students about their aspirations for the future, leaving me confident that their contribution to society will be a positive one.

Early this half term, students celebrated the successful completion of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award from the Summer of 2019. Despite the blisters, the heavy back packs, and dehydrated food, the students showed outstanding commitment and endeavour. The success of the Award under Miss Carter’s leadership has been fantastic and the students are already making preparations for this year’s award. It was a great occasion for the students, parents and carers to celebrate their hard work and achievement.

Students at STFS have been on a variety of trips and visits this half term. Our Sixth Form students have visited Aylesbury Crown Court and Milton Keynes Magistrates; they also managed to fit in a visit to Northampton University Law library. Being able to experience these opportunities gives the students a real sense of how their skills and knowledge is transferred to the real world and was a real eye opener to the world around them. Our cadets took to the skies once more and demonstrated their talent and bravery. Again, this is such a fantastic opportunity for the students and they really do take it with both hands. Students in Year 10 have been taking part in a number of careers based events. These have been held at a number of different locations, each one providing students with a sense of what life beyond school is like.



One of the biggest events of the half term has been the excellent work in Mrs Franklin's Business lessons. Year 10 Business students were loaned £10 to invest in to an enterprise idea and see how much profit they could make, which will be donated to the group's chosen charity. The students really flourished and have been organising films at lunch time, an old fashioned tuck shop and a school concert, amongst other things. The creativity and hard work from the students has been phenomenal and I am sure that a significant amount of money has been raised for the various charities. The process relies on student creativity and a keen sense of organisation. Well done to all involved.

The PE Department have been very busy with fixtures against local schools. Students have represented the school impeccably and played with determination and pride throughout. Fixtures against Sir Henry Floyd, The Grange, AVA, AGS and Akeley saw our students once more hold their heads high in Bucks. For the size of the school and continued lack of access to a pitch, our students still perform extremely well against their peers and we are tremendously proud of their efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Quinton Hills Group** who have kindly bought and sponsored our new football kit. The gesture and support is greatly appreciated by everyone at STFS.

Mr Payne and Miss Owen's Borneo fundraising continues and this half term it took the shape of a quiz evening. The quiz was well attended by lots of staff, friends, families and students and proved to be a very competitive evening. It was a real success with over £900 being raised; these events do not work without significant contributions from school staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Friday night to support STFS. I know everyone will be keen to know who won, but for me it is not about who scored the most points in the quiz. It is of course about the celebration of the school and local community, (but if you really want to know, then I am embarrassed to say that my team won). As I said, it is not important, but we did get a lovely winner's trophy!

I would like to share the news that STFS has secured Dr Sophie Fielding as a guest speaker during British Science Week. We are delighted to be able to invite students and the community to this event and hopefully inspire future scientists who will continue the fight to protect our planet. Science week is always such an enjoyable experience and we are thoroughly looking forward to it.



As part of our British Science Week celebrations we are proud to welcome Dr Sophie Fielding of the British Antarctic Survey to talk about her environmental work in the Antarctic.

Dr Fielding will be talking about her career journey and the impact her research has, and how it feels to be at the forefront of making a difference to the future of the world.

Dr Fielding is one of the lead scientists who will be aboard the RSS Sir David Attenborough and she'll be sharing her experiences of what it's like living and working in the Antarctic, what the RSS Sir David Attenborough will be doing and why, and of course, what Boaty McBoatface gets up to.

The event is free to attend and open to all students and members of the public.

Tickets available from Kate in the Prep Room or via the following link.

tinyurl.com/freezer-life



Tickets are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis.



I would like to remind all families that the disabled parking bays are not for general use or drop offs. Whilst I understand that they are more convenient and save people driving round to the drop off bays, it is not teaching our young people the value of having rules or having empathy for those who actually need them. We do have genuine need for the disabled bays and it is highly frustrating when disabled visitors to the school are unable to park there.

Have a safe and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 24th February.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

