



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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16th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Michael Buble says “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”, and the busy atmosphere that Christmas brings is buzzing around the school. Students and staff enjoyed a superb Christmas lunch on Wednesday: excellent food and an atmosphere that celebrated the beginning of the Christmas period.

The school production of We Will Rock You is in the final stages of rehearsal and almost ready to perform to over 300 people. The work that has gone in to the production has been absolutely first class. Something like this always brings the best out in people, and our production embodies these qualities. Everyone has played their part and the production really is a team effort. Like all productions, they simply could not run without a tremendously dedicated staff team who alongside their day to day work, recognise the importance of what a school production means to the students and the school community. The students have also shown a huge amount of commitment and drive in preparing themselves for the performance. Thank you to all involved.

Year 11 have survived the mock period and will looking forward to their results in January. Their hard work and focus has been inspiring and their application outstanding. It is lovely to get so many positive comments from the invigilator team who commended the students for their behaviour throughout the exam period. Looking forward to January, Year 11 parents have been invited to an information evening on how to best support their child in the latter stages of the GCSEs. This takes place on Monday 13th January.

There have been a number of school trips this half term. Yr 7 have been to the Panto, I am not sure who was more excited, the staff or the students. Students in Key stage five have been representing STFS at the Maths Challenge in Bedfordshire, where we held our heads high against some outstanding competition. Our Art students went to Bedford University to experience what University could offer in regard to Art beyond school. Year 9 and Year 10 went to Stratford Upon Avon and the RSC, taking part in workshops looking at Macbeth and Julius Caesar. We really appreciate the support from families with trips and visits. They are such an important part of the student experience and build a greater sense of engagement for all students.

Our Combined Cadet Force had their biannual inspection and once again we are delighted with their efforts. The students involved in cadets show a huge amount of commitment and it is a great honour to have this recognised by the CCF officers, who put them through a strict inspection.



Our work with local primary schools goes from strength to strength. Under Miss Coll's leadership, we have hosted 7 sports events for local primary schools which has seen 42 different primary schools benefit from our indoor sports facilities. We have had over 300 primary students taking part in competitions and promoting healthy lifestyles; all of this has been under the guidance of our very own sports leaders, all 142 of them. Our music department has also been active in the primary community under Mrs Greene's leadership, with STFS students attending Winslow Primary School and sharing their skills and enjoyment of music. The outstanding work of the students in supporting the primary schools is something we are very proud of, with each student demonstrating the core values of the school.

I am going to make a further plea to drivers who access and use the school car park. I am genuinely concerned about the speed at which some drive around our car park and I cannot emphasise enough the importance of following the speed limit. I have spoken to individuals regarding their speed and thank them for modifying their speed in order to safeguard students, staff and visitors. In addition to the speed in the car park, can I remind parents and carers that the Disabled Bays are not a drop off or pick up point. These spaces are dedicated those who have a disability. We do have a drop off and pick up point which should be used. Thank you for your support with these matters. The safety of everyone is paramount.

There have been a large number of sporting fixtures this term. The wet and muddy conditions have lent themselves well to the rugby season. There have been some excellent results and really pleasing performances. Students have also competed in Basketball, Handball, Football, Netball, Badminton and Table Tennis. A special mention goes to James Holland whose commitment and hard work helped STFS to table tennis victory over Stowe School. I am thrilled with the competitiveness and pride that students have demonstrated whilst representing the school this half term. Thank you to all who have represented the school.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Greene and her husband well as they await the arrival of their first child. Mrs Greene has been instrumental in the planning and delivering of school productions over the last two years. Whilst on maternity leave, Mrs Snell and Mr Novalbos will be joining the SFTS team to ensure that music continues to grow. We also have Mrs Fullford joining the Humanities Department in January and I am sure that the new staff will quickly become part of the STFS family.

Students who completed the Bronze Award for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in summer 2019 will have their efforts rewarded on January 7th. There will be a celebration evening recognising the students' successes and efforts. Miss Carter has communicated this with those who will be attending. We are really looking forward to this year's award and the large numbers who have shown an interest. I know that the students who completed the award previously have created so many memories from the experience that will stay with them forever. There is such a great sense of achievement when the students complete the challenge and finish their expedition- blisters and all!

Just an update on 'My Child at School'. We are working with our Management Information provider and are currently trying to organise the necessary training for staff here and how the facility will be rolled out to all parents. I will keep you updated with this in the new year.

As always at this time of year I remind students and families to check that their school equipment is complete and ready for January. It is so important that students attend lessons with the correct equipment each day that will allow them to undertake the learning ahead.



Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term and look forward to an even better 2020. We will see all the students back on Monday 6th January 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

