



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Welcome Back

I am delighted to have welcomed all year groups back to STFS, and I know for a fact that many were excited at the prospect of seeing the familiar faces of their friends and teachers again. Having everyone back has created an electric energy around the school and an engagement that is really pleasing to see. Whilst this period has been hugely challenging for all families, I cannot praise the students enough for their flexible approach to their return. Once again, students at STFS have excelled and demonstrated how mature and considerate they are. I have the pleasure of teaching two year 7 classes and I am extremely impressed by their transition to secondary school; they have already made themselves part of the school community. Having students demonstrate such courtesy and politeness is a really promising start.

Clearly, this year is also going to be a challenge and I am so proud of how maturely the students have coped with the changes we have put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19. All year groups have had assemblies and therefore have a clear understanding of their role in supporting the safety measures put in place to protect all members of the community. We continue to make the wearing of face coverings compulsory in all communal areas and when students transfer between lessons. Can I take this opportunity to remind all students who travel by bus, whether that is public, school or county, that they must wear a face covering whilst on their journey. By not doing so, it undermines the efforts we have gone to in school. Face coverings are compulsory for all of our students and staff:

- On public transport, our mini-bus and county buses
- In corridors between lessons whilst following the One Way Motorway
- Masks to be worn before students enter the building
- Teachers will instruct students to place them on before they leave a classroom.
- Queuing in the dining room
- In year group areas at break and lunchtime
- Students can remove their masks once they sit down to eat.
- In the changing rooms



- Students can decide to continue to wear face coverings in lessons if they wish. However, if the covering is misused or its wearing disrupts learning, students will need to remove them.

Every member of the school community has a part to play in protecting staff and students from COVID-19. If your child or a member of your household develops symptoms, it is vitally important that parents keep their children at home and have them tested even if they only have very mild symptoms of the virus (cough, temperature, loss of sense of taste/smell or an upset stomach). Your child should stay at home until they know the results of the test. If the test is positive, the school should be informed as soon as possible and the student should stay at home for at least 10 days. Even if the test is negative, students should only attend school if they are feeling well. It is equally important that families observe the 14-day self-isolation rule if someone in their household becomes infected or if a person has been in close contact with an infected person. The following link has details regarding symptoms and actions that should be taken if you suspect your child has COVID-19:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/#symptoms>

Please inform school as soon as possible of the test outcome.

Can families continue to remind their child about maintaining social distancing where it is possible. We have increased signage around the school to help with this. However, if the message is repeated at home as well, then we should continue to maintain student health. Another way in which families can support school is if your child has a cough or is sneezing, we would recommend still keeping them at home. Coughing and sneezing transmits any virus and minimising risk does rely on families keeping their child at home if they are coughing and sneezing, even after a negative test result.

The students have been fantastic so far in following the guidance and we thank you all for your support with this. As the term progresses we may well need to modify our plans and measures and we will keep families informed of any significant changes that we introduce.

We will be doing a number of things differently this year. For example, we will be conducting “Meet the tutor” evening and Parents’ Evenings online. We have decided to do this to minimise the number of visitors to the site at any one time. We will share the specific details of these events and how to join a meeting once we have finalised the details. Homework will be set via Microsoft Teams, as we wish to reduce any transactions of paper and books between home and school. More details will follow regarding these events.

As you will be aware, GCSE and A’Level grades were issued by schools themselves this year. In my opinion, teachers giving grades to the students they have known since year 7 is a much truer reflection of that child’s ability and achievement over a period of time. The students handled this complex and frustrating situation with maturity and common sense, and we are tremendously proud of our students and their hard work throughout their whole time at school. We have a number of students off to University: places such as Exeter, Bristol, Nottingham, Ravensbourne School of Art and Durham to name but a few will now be graced by STFS students. We are also celebrating students who were able to secure Apprenticeships in their field of interest; the rigours and competition for these places are significant, and our students should be immensely proud of the success. Their efforts and commitment to their learning demonstrates how hard work pays off. Similarly, our GCSE students, who worked tirelessly throughout their time at secondary school and are now able to enjoy the rewards of their hard work. We are delighted with the number of students continuing their education with us in to Year 12. Well done to all; we look forward to your future successes and the next phase of your education. We are extremely proud of all our students and their success. We feel that those who challenged themselves to strive for the very best and exceed expectation are equally as important as getting the top grades.



I would also like to make a plea on behalf and in support of the residents of Highfield Road in Winslow. The residents are finding it rather difficult to access their driveways or parking due to the number of families dropping off and picking up students. Highfield Road is not the most spacious of roads and I would greatly appreciate it if STFS families could drop at an alternative location. I appreciate the challenges of parking in Winslow and the school site, but we are very keen to uphold our excellent reputation by supporting local residents with this issue.

Key dates for Parents' & Information Evenings.

Dates for your Diary

Event*	Date	Timings
Year 7&12 Meet the Tutor	29/09/2020	4.30-7.00
Year 11 Parents Evening	21/10/2020	4.30-7.00
Post 16 Open Evening	23/11/2020	5.00-7.00
Year 10 Parents Evening	26/11/2020	4.30-7.30
Year 11 Revision Evening	14/01/2021	5.00-6.30
Year 13 Parents Evening	11/02/2021	4.30-7.00
Year 9 Options Evening	24/02/2021	5.00-7.00
Year 9 Parents Evening	09/03/2021	4.30-7.30
Year 8 Parents Evening	07/06/2021	4.30-7.00
Year 12 Parents Evening	17/06/2021	4.30-7.00
Year 7 Parents Evening	06/07/2021	4.30-7.30

*These are to be virtual until further notice. Guidance regarding the arrangements of these will be communicated nearer the dates.

School Holiday Dates

All key dates can be seen on the school calendar on the school website. This can be found at www.sirthomasfremantle.org These are unlikely to change. However, if there are any amendments we will inform you as soon as possible.

We all know that this year is going to be like no other; there will be a number of challenges that appear throughout the year and working together is the only way that we all will be able to navigate our way through. Your children are a resilient and determined group of young people. Their response to returning to school has clearly demonstrated their desire to achieve and build on their success. We all must hold on to this to ensure that school returns to normal as safely as possible.

Throughout the year, I will continue to send my half termly letter, and keeping families up to date with school news and developments.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger
Headteacher

