



# SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't quite believe that the first term of the academic year is drawing to a close. It is amazing just how much we cram in to 7 weeks, or 35 school days. For some, this will be the end of their very first term with us and for others this will be their thirteenth term. I am delighted with the hard work that both students and staff have continued to demonstrate during this term. There is a really positive atmosphere around school and I look forward to this continuing after the Christmas break.

The Year 7s are still fresh faced and clearly enjoying school life, while the Year 11s are in the final stages of their exam preparations and learning about their own resilience. The recent Mock examinations are an opportunity for Yr11s to fine tune their revision programmes and identify any gaps in their learning. This takes a certain level of maturity and honest reflection. I am pleased to see that a large majority of Year 11 continue to work with us and take advantage of the continuous support that this school offers. During the Christmas break, Year 11 teachers will be busy marking the mock papers and the feedback will be valuable for all students in making improvements. Once the mock results are collated, we will share the outcomes in a 'mock results day' where Year 11 students will collect and open results in the same way they will in the Summer. The feedback on the mocks will allow students to build their own improvement profile in their personal Mock Reflection Booklet; this booklet will help inform individual areas of development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their observations and comments regarding school improvement. I would like to assure you that these have all been read and will be used in driving the school forward. There were some really insightful comments about the timing of the school day and how the winter months particularly affect this. This is an area I would like to review in January and I will be inviting individual parents to share their thoughts about how we can tackle this issue.

This half term has seen our charity work continue. We recently raised £747.85 for Pancreatic Cancer UK and through the Sixth Form Rag week we raised over £800 for their chosen charities. The awareness that our students show to these causes is huge and I would like to thank all who contributed to the organisation of these events and everyone who donated so kindly. I would also like to thank Miss Cole and Mrs Smith for their work on the Children in Hospital. Again, a huge number of gifts were donated and will be delivered to local hospitals for children who will spend their Christmas in hospital. We would like to assure parents that all monies raised go to the named charities.



In addition, we have hosted a number of sporting events for local primary and secondary schools. Miss Coll has recently been appointed as STFS's School Sports Coordinator. Miss Coll has already made a significant contribution to the development of sports within Bucks and it has been fantastic to see so many primary students making the most of our sports hall, being ably led by our own Sports Leaders. There have been a number of other sporting successes this half term: Victories in hockey, handball, girls' football and rugby show the sheer determination of our students and staff. Often competing against schools with a much larger student body to select from, we still demonstrate that our ethos of hard work and team work will allow us to succeed. Well done to the PE team and the students who have represented the school admirably.

I would like to make special mention of Liz Fahy who represented the school and our Cadet Force on Remembrance Day. Liz took on the role of Parade Marshal and led a number of Cadet Forces through the day. It is a huge honour to be given this role and we are tremendously proud of Liz and all of our Cadets who continue to represent the school impeccably.

I am delighted to announce that we have secured an experienced Maths teacher. Gina Tenquist has been a Maths Consultant at a local Grammar School and will be a fantastic addition to our school. Charlotte Nash joins us in MFL and again brings a wealth of experience to our MFL dept. I am sure that everyone will join me in welcoming our new teachers to STFS.

The Year 10 visit to the RSC in Stratford upon Avon was amongst a number of enriching school visits and trips this half term. The students participated in workshops led by Directors within the RSC and gave the students an opportunity to experience key scenes from Julius Caesar. Year 13 Biology students enjoyed a fieldtrip to Devon with Mrs Rosier and Mr Wicks. During the course of the visit, students were able to adapt their laboratory skills for the field. Year 12 and 13 also took part in the Safe Drive, Stay alive conference in Milton Keynes. The conference is to raise awareness of young and inexperienced drivers and is another example of STFS students becoming responsible adults.

Can I also remind students and their families of the importance of being the correct equipment each day. With Christmas around the corner, it is a great opportunity to wrap up those learning essentials in a brand new and fully equipped pencil case. After Christmas, tutors will be conducting regular checks to ensure that all students are prepared for their learning. I include the list of expected items below:

- Pens (x 2 minimum)
- Pencils (x 2 minimum)
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- Highlighters
- Calculator
- PE Kit – PE Days/Enrichment
- Reading Book
- HW Planner
- Colouring Pencils/Pens
- Protractor
- Compass
- Exercise Books for each day



We have had an excellent response to the Duke of Edinburgh announcement. Over 70 students have expressed an interest in taking part this academic year. We have invited Kate Aldersley, DofE Operations Officer in to school to deliver an information evening to parents at 18:00 on January 8<sup>th</sup>. I will remind parents and carers of this date again when we return in the New Year.

By the time this letter goes out, the school will have staged our production of Julius Caesar. Miss Nelson and her creative team have devoted a significant amount of time to the production and the commitment from the students has been outstanding. I have never thought of STFS like waiting for a bus, but I wait for one production and two come along at once! Our Christmas Concert takes place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I would also like to remind you of some key dates coming up in January and February 2019. We would really encourage you to attend the Parents' Evenings for Yr11 and Yr13 and help support the dialogue of improvement between school and student. The full list of key dates can be found in my first letter of the year, dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

January	7th	Y13 Mocks
	16th	Year 11 Parents' Evening
	21st	Y13 Parents' Evening
February	7th	Y9 Options Evening
		Y11 Reports

Just a reminder that the last day of the term will be Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The day will finish at the regular time of 16:30.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support over the last term and hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing the students on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 8:20.

Yours faithfully



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