



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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10th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that everyone is ready for a full and exciting academic year. I am honoured to be leading the school as Headmaster in to the next phase of its development.

The long summer days already seem a distant memory, but at STFS we still have a warm glow of celebration as we reflect on the GCSE accomplishments of our Year 11s. Our GCSE results show once again that the relentless drive of our teachers, the support of parents and the sheer hard work from the students is a powerful combination in the pursuit of success.

GCSE RESULTS 2018

Results across the core subjects were excellent. English Language and English Literature achieved 81% grade 4 and above, and Maths saw 82% of their students achieving 4 and above. The % at grade 5 and above also saw an increase from last year, with 62% of students achieving a 5 or more in English Language and 59% in Literature. In Maths, 63% of students achieved a grade 5 or above. Students in Science also celebrated outstanding results with 96% of students achieving grade 5 or above in Biology and Chemistry and 92% of students achieving a 5 or higher in Physics. French and Spanish saw huge gains with 72% of students gaining a grade 5 and 93% achieving a 4 or above in French. Law, Further Maths and SPDM achieved 27%, 63% & 54% respectively at A or A*. The grades achieved are testament to the partnership that the school, students and parents have.

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.

New Staff

Whilst we are delighted with this summer's success we are also mindful not to become complacent. Like any school or organisation, we are constantly striving to improve what we do and how we do it. Once again we have recruited a talented group of teachers who are already making a significant contribution to school life. We understand that bringing new teachers in is sometimes an unsettling period but we have been very fortunate to have attracted highly qualified and experienced teachers. This is even more pleasing when we take in to account the current national issues surrounding teacher recruitment.



We would like to welcome **Amandine Ruffet-Zaragoza** – Psychology, **Alison Gredal** – Health and Social Care, **Clare Franklin** – Business and Law, **Emily Rath** – PE, **Jonny Dale** – PE, **Nick Holmes** – English, **Rebecca Stone** – English, **Sian Carter** – English, **Jack Capron** – MFL, **Anne Comins**- German, **Sue Draper**- German, **Lucie Hancock**-Maths, **Louise Greene**- Music, **Harriet Bartley**- LSA, **Suzu Peace**- LSA and **Katie-Jane Duckmanton**- Science Technician to STFS

There have also been some changes to roles of existing staff. **Sophie Nelson** is now Subject Lead for English, **Annie Hughes** has taken on the role of Subject Lead for French and **Inigo Sanchez** who is Subject Lead for Spanish. We have also made changes to our pastoral system with each year group now having a Learning Leader. Their primary responsibility is for the pastoral leadership and management of the year group and to support high standards of learning and achievement for all students. **Kate Owens** is Learning Leader for Year 7, **Robert Wicks** Year 8, **Ellie McLean** Year 9 and **Mat Payne** Year 10 and Year 11. If you do have any issues regarding your son or daughter, you should contact their form tutor in the first instance.

Equipment

To ensure a smooth and positive start to the year we would appreciate all students to attend school in the correct uniform and bring correct equipment which they will need on a daily basis. Our uniform policy has not changed and all students need to comply. Form tutors will be checking that each student has the basics to ensure that they can learn. It is also a requirement for students to bring a water bottle to school; it is their responsibility to refill these at break and lunch. Only water may be consumed in appropriate classrooms.

The following checklist will help your child pack their bag the evening before school:

- 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

This is also an opportune moment to update you on school Ipads. As existing parents will be aware, students were without Ipads for the whole of the last academic year due to an issue with our suppliers. We have fought to resolve these issues but unfortunately we have been unable to do so, and subsequently we are unable to use a significant number of the Ipads. Whilst this is disappointing for all involved, we are seeking a solution that is cost effective and practical for all involved with the school.



School Website and Communication

Thank you to those parents who have fed back their opinions about the existing school website. A new website is under construction and will be unveiled this term. We are busy updating the content and making sure the new site is user friendly. We will update you with progress throughout the half term.

An area the school is keen to improve is communication with parents. We believe that successful home school communication is essential in ensuring a positive relationship between school and home. I will be sending home a half termly letter home which will involve a combination of reflection and future plans. We will continue to use Facebook to inform parents about school activities but it will not replace the traditional letter or email. Throughout the year we will be looking at further ways we can improve communication. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to share them with me at neale.pledger@sirthomasfremantle.org

Cashless Catering

STFS will be moving to a cashless catering system. We see a number of benefits to introducing this system but in particular it will be a convenient way of paying for school meals. No more looking for change every morning! It will also discourage the spending of school dinner money in the shops on the way to school. As parents you will also be able to see exactly what your child has been consuming. Emma Windsor, STFS Business Manager, will update you further closer to the implementation of the system.

School Car Park Access

If you are collecting your son or daughter at the end of the day it is worth noting that the school car park cannot be accessed until 16:40, this is to allow school buses to depart safely. If you are driving a vehicle onto the school site, please note that the speed limit is 5 miles an hour. We must ask that all drivers respect this limit for the safety of our students, staff and visitors. It is also important that traffic follows the one-way system and under no circumstances go against the flow of traffic.

Please also note that the disabled spaces directly in front of reception are for the use of disabled and/or mobility impaired users only. They are not an additional pickup/drop off point or overflow parking space and should not be used as such. Please help us to keep these spaces free for the people who need to use them.

Key Dates for Academic Year

Autumn Term 2018

5th September – Start

22th October – 26th October – Half term

18th December – End

Spring Term 2019

3rd January- Start

18th February – 22nd February – Half term

5th April – Ends

Summer Term 2019

23rd April - Start

27th May – 31st May – Half term

18th July – Ends

School INSET days

19th December 2018

28th June 2019

19th July 2019



Key dates for each Year group.

| | | |
|-----------------|------|---|
| October | 3rd | Y6 Open Evening and days (including the day of the 4th) |
| | 11th | Y12 Meet the Tutors |
| | 18th | Y7 Meet the Tutors |
| November | | Y12 Reports |
| | 20th | Sixth Form Open Evening |
| | 26th | Y11 Mocks begin |
| December | 12th | Y10 Parents' Evening |
| January | 7th | Y13 Mocks |
| | 16th | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| | 21st | Y13 Parents' Evening |
| February | 7th | Y9 Options Evening |
| | | Y11 Reports |
| March | 12th | Y7 Parents Evening |
| | 29th | Y13 Reports |
| April | | Y8 Reports |
| | 2nd | Y9 Parents' Evening |
| | 5th | GCSE Options Deadline |
| May | 14th | Y12 Parents Evening |
| June | | Y10 Reports |
| | 27th | Y8 Parents' Evening |
| July | | Y7 Reports |

Finally, we are really proud of STFS and its students. The decisions that the school makes are always made with the students and wider school community at heart; we are constantly looking to unlock the potential in all of our students. We look forward to another fantastic year in the school's short history and the continued support we receive from you in ensuring everyone at STFS can learn and teach.

Yours sincerely,



Neale Pledger
Headmaster

