



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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29th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The clocks will have changed by the time this letter reaches your inbox. With the clocks changing, the longer and brighter evenings do bring with them positive and happier moods. These two words are how I will be ending the term. The school has continued to be a place of happy, hardworking and harmonious students and teachers. For me, it further defines the importance of the relationships that the school has with its families. The continued support of the school community has been a real strength this term. So thank you for all the positive comments and care you have continued to show. It is greatly appreciated by us all.

Our recent coffee morning highlighted the positivity that exists between all members of the school community. The attendance at the MIND Coffee Morning was outstanding. The facilitator from MIND commented that it was one of the most well attended events she has seen. I am really proud of the work we continue undertake around Mental Health and Well-being. We are currently trying to raise funds for an outdoor space that would be used for reflection and quiet; something that is challenging in a busy school. We see this space as somewhere students who receive counselling can go and not feel the anxieties of sitting in a public office. Similarly, school staff are not immune to stresses and worries and this space can offer a place which allows time to reflect in a safe and secure environment. The Rotary Club of Winslow have been extremely generous by donating 10% of the cost of this space and we are looking to raise further funds to support this project. If this is something you can help with, please email julie.smith@sirthomasfremantle.org

I am sure you have been following the latest news regarding Brexit. Whilst watching, I have been thinking about the behaviour of MPs, refusing to let each other finish a sentence, shouting over each other and the general lack of respect that these adults have for each other. I have compared these behaviours to school and am pleased to say that the students at STFS are far better behaved than those responsible for our running our country. As a school we have to be very careful when discussing politics, so I just want to confirm I am criticising the behaviour of MPs in general and not individual political parties or politicians. Thankfully, we work with students and families who are much more polite and respectful. If you really want the low down on Brexit, then you need look no further than Bertie and Lison, two of our Year 8 students who were recently interviewed on the BBC World Service. They were selected by the BBC after impressing during the recent School News Report. You can find the broadcast here - you have to skip through some of the programme to get to the interviews. Thank you to all those who took part and to Mrs Stone and Miss Spence for their guidance.

1st part-<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w172w61921617bn> - 17 minutes in

2nd part-<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w172w6192161c2s> - 35 minutes in



Alongside this, we recently welcomed teachers and students from the Istituto Di Istruzione Carduccife in Ferrara, Italy. This link has developed through the work of Dr Rizzieri and Miss Owens. Students from Italy interviewed and questioned STFS students on their views about Europe and where they see themselves. The depth of conversation and level of political engagement of the students made me very proud. We are looking forward to further projects and working with our peers in Italy. The link below offers a further insight into the day:

<https://www.carduccife.edu.it/poneuropa/2019/03/26/a-day-at-milton-keynes/>

We are also celebrating success at the U13 County Handball tournament. The girls finished in second place, only losing to eventual winners Shenley Brook End. The girls played some excellent handball, especially during the 9-1 dismantling of John Colet, who had previously beaten us 4-0. We were also picked out by the organiser of the County tournaments as having played the best handball from any team that she had seen this year! In the process, we also collected the fair play award for the second tournament running. The hard work and dedication that the girls have once again shown is truly phenomenal. Handball is a relatively new sport for us, but it just shows what a positive attitude and hard work can achieve. Fantastic work girls and Mr Dale.

Once again, students and staff enjoyed World Book Day. The array of costumes and the fantastic effort of the students was a joy. The love of reading was celebrated with gusto. I think a special mention must go to Mr Smith who clearly enjoyed being Snow White. It is days like this that serve as a reminder of the importance of reading for pleasure.

The Science team have had a busier than normal term with their outstanding efforts during British Science Week. I am still amazed by how many students chose to watch the heart and lungs demonstration delivered by Mr Matthews; this is even more impressive as most were watching this on a full stomach after lunch. We also witnessed a number of other projects from Elastic Cars through to explosive bottles of pop. I was particularly impressed by the year 9 scientists who were looking at alternative uses for excessive plastics; some fantastic ideas that included garden features, bee and insect homes and stationery holders. Well done and thank you to all involved. The students really saw the significance of science and how it is all around them.

A recent Food Hygiene Inspection has seen us improve and achieve the highest possible rating. The kitchen has made significant improvements and this is clearly reflected in our 5* Rating. The variety and quality of the food continues to impress and this is evident from the large number of students using 'Jezza's' every day.

We would like to congratulate Mr and Mrs Pike, who were pleased to announce the birth of their son at the beginning of March. Considering Mr Pike has only had a few hours sleep since, he doesn't look too bad. Well done to the Pike family.

Can I just remind those driving on to the school site that there is a speed limit in place for the safety of all. There are a few parents who during drop off and pick up, who do drive too fast in the car park. I would like all students, staff and visitors to be able to arrive and leave school as safely as possible. I have also received a complaint from a resident in Highfield Road. When parking in town to pick up, can you please avoid blocking driveways and local resident access. Your support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you email the school over the break, please be patient for a response as the reply may not come until after the Easter break. If you have a safeguarding concern over the break and are unsure what to do, then please contact the Bucks Safeguarding team on **01296 383962** (out of hours: 0800 999 7677). They will listen to your concerns and decide on the appropriate course of action. If there is an immediate risk of harm to a child, then call 999.

I would like to make another appeal to families for support in our quest for plastic reduction. Over the break, can I ask that all students purchase a reusable water bottle. We are having additional water fountains installed



over the break in anticipation of increased numbers of students using refillable water bottles. Thank you for your support with this.

Finally, just a reminder that the summer uniform should *not* be worn after Easter. I will communicate separately stating when Polo shirts can be unveiled. I will also be sending communication regarding a school field after Easter, where I will be looking for support in raising this issue with Bucks CC.

Have a safe and enjoyable break.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 23rd April at 08:30.

Yours sincerely,



Neale Pledger
Headmaster

