



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you with an update of the term. We continue to be impressed by our new students and equally thrilled with how Y11 have thrown themselves into their final year here.

### School Improvement Areas

I believe it's important for STFS to share with you our journey and areas to develop. I think our school has amazing students and we have big ambitions for the school and its future. We have worked hard on defining our vision and values and we look forward to embedding them in our ethos and practice. We know that no school is the 'finished article' and we want to get better to ensure all students have a wonderful education.

This year we are focussing on four main areas:

### *Rise to the Challenge!*

Vision & Ambition	Curriculum Design	Teaching for All	Leadership at all Levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all rise to the challenge.</li> <li>• We live and breathe the vision.</li> <li>• We support and challenge each other to achieve the best for our students.</li> <li>• Our vision isn't just a poster - we live it!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The curriculum offer is enriched with experiences that enhance thinking and understanding.</li> <li>• The curriculum challenges all students.</li> <li>• The curriculum builds upon prior knowledge and develops the whole student.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students regardless of their background have the opportunity to succeed.</li> <li>• Teachers have strategies and approaches to ensure all students reach their potential.</li> <li>• Equality for all is at the heart of our offer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All leaders know the strengths and areas to develop of their department.</li> <li>• Leaders plan to mitigate against barriers to learning.</li> <li>• Leaders don't settle for less for our students.</li> </ul>

More about what this means will be available on our website soon. We really want everyone here at STFS to rise to the challenge! Last year we joined Challenge Partnership, an organisation which supports school improvement through peer reviews and visiting areas of excellence. We are now part of the Aylesbury Hub for Challenge Partners, working with hub schools such as Aylesbury Grammar, John Colet, Royal Grammar School. It was really important for me to ensure we learn from other schools and be open to external review and challenge.

### Some housekeeping notices:

**Uniform** – we are seeing standing slip, particularly around footwear. Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform.

**New Devices** – most students now have their new device and working through some teething problems. We've noticed that some of our younger students are absolutely enraptured by the laptops! We will be reviewing use at breaks and lunches to ensure they don't get too much screen time!



## Communication with Families

We want to get a really good understanding of your child's experience and build up our relationships with families. We are working hard in the background on our new website and we are using social media more to share news and successes.



### Mantlepiece

Every half term we will issue 'The Mantlepiece' magazine to share our term's success. This will be a summary of learning and activities over the term. We want to reinvigorate the school magazine to keep you abreast of what our students are capable of.

### Family Forum

Around once a month we will be open for families to meet with one of the leaders to share your thoughts and ideas. Sometimes face to face is best and hopefully an opportunity for us to learn about your experience. It will be at 9:15 am and will be both online and in person in rotation. Online details to follow.

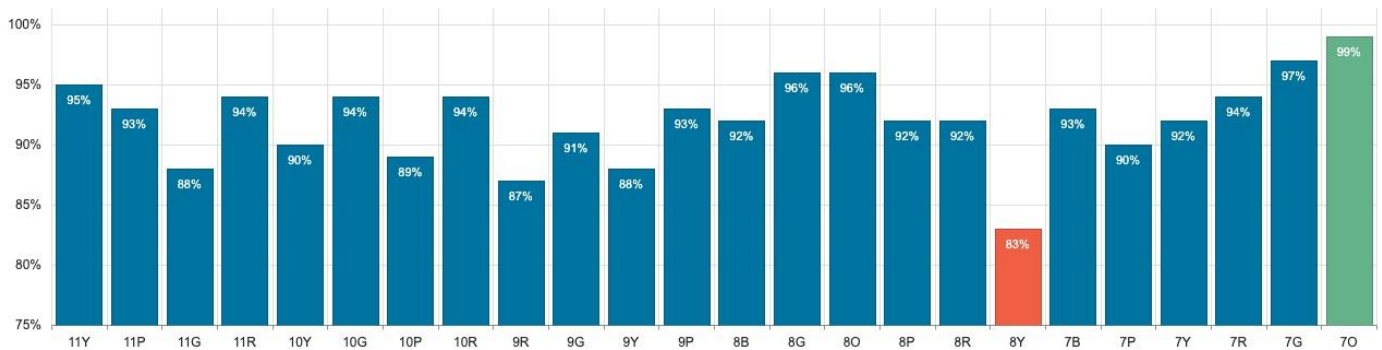


### Family Forum Dates for the Year:

- 31<sup>st</sup> October – online
- 29<sup>th</sup> November – school canteen
- 31<sup>st</sup> January – school canteen
- 6<sup>th</sup> March – school canteen
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May – online
- 26<sup>th</sup> June – school canteen

### Attendance

Below is the attendance from the start of term by form – remembering 95% + is the target. As I mentioned in the previous letter – students with 95% + attendance achieve better than expected at GCSE. Students with very low attendance were up to 3 grades below expected!



We hope you have a lovely weekend and time to rest and recover from the week.

Best wishes,

Francis Murphy and the Team at STFS!