



**SIR THOMAS  
FREMANTLE**

— SECONDARY SCHOOL —

George Pass Avenue, Winslow  
Buckinghamshire, MK18 3GH  
01296 711853  
office@sirthomasfremantle.org  
www.sirthomasfremantle.org

Head Teacher: Mr Francis Murphy

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a wintery day, I wanted to write to you with some updates. We have been very busy this term, particularly with the Y11 mock exams and the students, as always, have been remarkable. I must also thank so many staff who have been doing additional duties and providing cover work to help keep the school going as much as possible.

### Our Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Our Christmas Dinner menu (£3.00) is out and we hope everyone can join us for Christmas Lunch. Free School Meal Students do not need to pay for the meal. In addition to this day, we will be running our Christmas Jumper Day raising money for charity. We want the day to be a celebration and look wonderful. There's no need to book but students will need to have funds on their account to purchase on the day. Please bring in £1 to raise money for the Christmas Jumper Fund



*We are also looking for cracker donations to help make the canteen feel special! If you have any to donate, they can be dropped off at the school office.*



### Y11 Mocks

I wanted to say that our Y11 students who have been wonderful in their mocks. They have thrown themselves into their studies and I know they want the very best for themselves. We will be also running a mock results day where the students will open their results in an envelope to help them understand the real experience. We will follow up the mocks results at the Y11 parent evening on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024





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### Year Group Closures

I would like to thank you for your perseverance and words of support during the last couple of weeks. We know the impact any form of closure has on students and, as teachers, it goes against our instincts and what we want for students. The bug left staff unwell for about two days but when illness affects many staff simultaneously, it becomes difficult to remain open to all and maintain a safe environment.

The school office day starts around 6:30am when we receive the calls from staff, we then contact agencies for supply and look at our own schedules to adapt and cover classes. Due to the need at the moment, supply agency staff are hard to come by. We know this can feel last minute but we can only work around who calls in the morning.

I also make the decision about what I believe is best for the students. For some of our students, stability, reliability and known staff helps them be successful. Having many supply teachers who do not know the students and their needs can have a negative impact on them.

### New Recruits!

This term has been very busy with recruitment for the upcoming term. We have appointed a new Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Behaviour, Culture and Safeguarding, Mrs Elmes, who is currently Head of Behaviour at a large secondary. Jenny Parkins, also joins the leadership team as the new School Business Manager. We have appointed two new science teachers, one 'second in department' and one to lead on cross curricular science. We will be implementing additional science drop down days to ensure we cover the whole GCSE programme for Y11. We have also appointed a new LSA and a Finance Assistant.



### 10 Year Anniversary

The Autumn Term celebrates Ten Years of Sir Thomas Fremantle. We will be marking this occasion, later in December with cakes and a couple of surprises! It is very hard to believe that the school opened in 2013 at the old site and has grown considerably. We still have a few of the 'originals' and some of our Trust Members have been with us since the opening. It feels fitting to celebrate this occasion!

### Weather Warning & Dark Nights

As the darker evenings come in and winter approaches, it is important that students have something reflective on them, particularly the students that walk down Furze Lane. We are looking into reflective clips/bands for students in the near future. All cyclists must ensure they have cycle lights and something reflective if they are cycling at night.



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We did receive a 'Yellow Weather Warning' today from the local authority stating:

*We currently have a yellow cold weather health alert issued for the SE of England (this warning covers the whole of Buckinghamshire), which will continue until midday on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.*

*Significant impacts are possible across the health and social care sector due to forecast weather conditions, including:*

- *observed increase in illness across the population, particularly in the 65+ age group or those with certain underlying health conditions, but impacts may also be seen in younger age groups;*
- *increased demand for remote health care services likely;*
- *possible impact on the workforce which may affect the ability of services to be delivered;*
- *maintaining indoor temperatures at recommended 18°C may become challenging for some, leading to increased risk of vulnerable people.*

*The forecast is cold to very cold weather persisting, with widespread overnight frost and freezing fog patches. Staying cold into the coming week, but likely turning less cold from Tuesday.*

I hope you have a wonderful weekend despite the cold snap!

Best wishes,

Francis Murphy  
Head Teacher

#### Key Dates:

- **Last Day of Autumn Term** – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- **First Day of Spring Term** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- **Y11 Parent Evening** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024