



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

# WELCOME BACK!

As we come to end of our first week, I wanted to thank you all for your support. It has been very hot and the students have been remarkable considering the heat. We have been impressed with their dedication to work and how they have returned to school. During every lesson, a school leader tours the school to check for focussed learning and behaviour, and each of the SLT members have been so thrilled with our new students who have adopted our expectations brilliantly; we know we have a great year ahead!

## Head of Year Meetings

This year, each head of year will be leading an online presentation on what to expect for the year group. These are online meetings but if you have any questions, please still free to contact the Head of Year or Form Tutor.

The links to the meetings are below and take place on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 5:30 pm.**

They are on Microsoft Teams and can be viewed in a web browser or the app. **Recordings will be uploaded on our website if you have more than one student or not able to attend.**

[Year 7 Mr Martindale](#)

[Year 8 Mrs McLean](#)

[Year 9 Mr Murray](#)

[Year 10 Miss Rath](#)

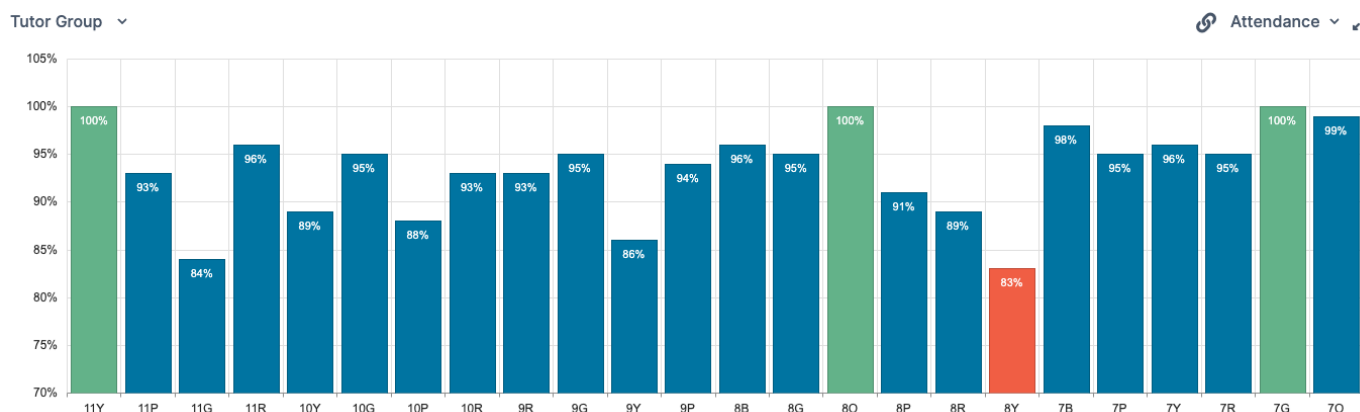
[Year 11 Miss Millers](#)

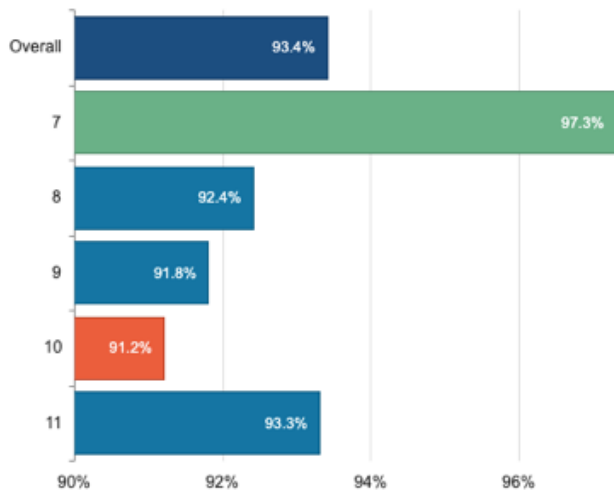
## Attendance

I realise that we continually discuss this but I cannot tell you the importance of good attendance on your child's academic attainment. Our August results make this jump of the page - being at school increases your grades! It is imperative that your child comes to school for their learning. This year our results demonstrated that those with:

- **Good Attendance (95%) – these students achieved one grade higher than predicted.**
- **Low attendance – these students achieve one grade lower than predicted.**
- **Very low attendance – these students achieved two grades lower than predicted.**

**Our current data already shows that some tutor groups are already at risk in week one!**





A massive well done to our new Y7 who are setting the school standard. It is disappointing to see the Y10 starting their GCSE course with 91%. It matters, and we can only do this as a partnership with you. If you foresee issues with attendance ahead, then please get in touch and we can work through this together.

### Who do I speak to if I have a concern?

*We want the best for your child and good communication between school and home is key to achieving this. Here's a brief overview but if you are still not sure – just give the office a call and they will be able to help you.*

#### How we like to work with families.

We have over 1000 parents connected with the school and we try as much as possible to meet everyone as quickly as possible. We try and find a private space for you to speak about your concern. Sometimes we might need another professional to give another perspective or expertise. We want an equitable relationship with families where we respect the information you provide and we share how we work. *This works best when our staff are treated respectfully, calmly, and not in an aggressive manner. We aim to respond to queries within 48 hours.*

#### I want to talk to someone about my child's learning?

In the first instance, it is important to have a discussion with the **subject teacher**. They are really happy to listen to your views, find out what you know and share how we are working with your child at school. The best time for class teachers is usually after school. Please ask the office for an appointment with the teacher and we will make an appointment that gives both you and the teacher enough time to discuss it in depth. If you need further support or feel it is not resolved, it may be helpful to speak to the **Head of Department**.

#### I want to talk about my child's well-being

The **form tutor** is the best person to speak to when you have a concern about your child's wellbeing. This might be general concerns about your child's experience here at STFS. If you feel that the concern may need further support or if it is not resolved with the form tutor, you can speak to the **Head of Year** for the year group.

#### I want to talk about an absence, attendance or punctuality?

Our **Attendance Officer, Hannah Dobbs** who oversees attendance can provide you with ideas and support to ensure your child gets a really good education through good attendance and punctuality. The school office has relevant forms and can also help with attendance and absence queries.

#### I want to talk about my child's special educational needs (learning, medical, physical or mental health)

You may wish to talk with the class teacher or the **Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCO) Fiona Ell**. We have an **Inclusion Manager, Ms Bartley**, who oversees the support for students. The office will be able to make an appointment for you and the school to meet.

#### I want to talk about paying for school lunches, trips, visits or uniform?

For details about payments and the online payment system, ParentPay, please speak to the school office. The school office also has payment plans and details of free school meal applications, etc. Please pop in, call us or email us with your query.

### **I want to talk to someone about a safeguarding matter (if you are worried about a child's safety)?**

If you have a concern that you wish to share with someone, please speak with the school office and they will pass you on to the relevant person. Different concerns can sometimes mean different professionals. **Mr Payne is our designated safeguarding lead** who looks after concerns around children's safety and well-being. The email is [safeguarding@sirthomasfremantle.org](mailto:safeguarding@sirthomasfremantle.org)

#### **Immediate Danger:**

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on **999**.

#### **Immediate Concern:**

If you have a concern about a child, please call **01296 383962 (Bucks)** or **01908 253169 (MK)**

### **I have spoken to the Head of Year/or Head of Department and I continue to have the same concerns – what next?**

If we have not been able to resolve your concern via the form tutor, class teacher, head of year and head of department, then we would recommend speaking with the **assistant or deputy head**. If concerns are still not resolved, you can then speak with the **head teacher**.

### **Your Child's Learning**

We are currently working in the background on developing our curriculum further. This part of the website will develop over the autumn term. However, if you want to know what your child is learning: [Y7-9 Click here](#). [Y10-11 Click here](#)

### **Class Charts & My Child at School**

These are the two main apps that we use. Please click below for more information.

[Class Charts](#) – this is for homework and behaviour points.

[My Child at School](#) – this is for general information we hold on your child, calendars, announcements, etc.

### **Clubs**

We are currently compiling our club offer, and these will come out shortly. Feedback from families requests a balance of lunchtime and afterschool. We are conscious that those using school buses would prefer lunchtime clubs.

### **Car Park**

As the student intake has risen, we have noticed our car park is much busier. Please can we ask that the bus lane and bus stops are reserved for buses. The buses hold up the traffic considerably if they remain in the car lane. Thank you!

### **School Opening Hours**

We are unable to open the school to students until 8:00 am. This is because we need to have the right professionals on site (first aider, safeguarding officer, etc). We've noted some students arriving at 7:30 am and we can't permit them in school until it is staffed correctly.

### **Caterers**

The take up in our school canteen has been phenomenal. The new chef said to me, 'This is the first school where they've eaten all the veg!' We hope this continues to be a success. The roast this week was a big hit. As the meal orders are far greater than previously, we are recruiting extra staff and a second till due to the demand. Remember there are pastries, porridge, hash browns, etc from 8:00 am for breakfast.

I'd also like to add that as I come to the start of my second year here I am driven to make this school the best in the area. We have so much potential and it's important to note that our primary focus is the success of students – nothing else beats that! I will be sharing our plans for the year and we welcome your feedback on how things are going.

**With very best wishes,**



**Francis Murphy and The Team**