

AK/SJS

17 April 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to our final term of this academic year. This will be an important term for a number of students who will be sitting external exams that will prepare them for the next stage in their lives. Research shows that the proportion of Service children going onto Higher Education is 40% less than the proportion of non-military children. This is despite these students having the grades to gain admission. St John's School bucks this trend with 100% of students moving from school into Further Education or training (including joining the military). This is due to the personalised support provided by the Sixth Form team and Careers Service.

This term we have lots of trips running, including a Year 10 Challenge Adventure Trip, a GCSE Geography Field Trip and the French Exchange Trip to Paris. During Activities Week there will be lots of opportunities for students to experience the great outdoors.

We have nearly completed all of our Parent Teacher Meetings with Year 8 happening on 2 May. Following this I will be sending out a Parents Survey to gain your perspectives on St John's School and your child's experience.

School Uniform

The weather is warming up and I wanted to remind parents of our school uniform policy which is detailed in the student planners and on the school website. The purpose of a school uniform is to ensure that students can come to school and feel unconcerned about their clothes and the brands that they are wearing. This places all students on a level playing field regardless of their economic background.

Coats/Tops

In Spring and Summer there should be no need for students to wear a coat to school and a coat should not replace either a school jumper, cardigan, fleece (KS3) or hoodie (KS4). Non-school hoodies, coats or tops are not to be worn to school.

Shoes

All black plimsoles, trainers or leather shoes can be worn but we do not accept coloured soles nor visible coloured branding. Sandals are not safe for Science or Technology and therefore are not allowed. Students will need different and appropriate trainers for PE. Socks can be white, black or grey but not bright colours.

Skirts and Shorts

We continue to have problems with skirts and are in the process of developing a new style of skirt based on samples ordered from a UK school uniform company. These will be available in September. Shorts can be worn by both boys and girls but need to be the correct colour and length.



Makeup, Nails and Jewellery

Gel nails and nail varnish are not allowed. We will provide students with nail varnish remover if they are wearing either of these in school. We accept that in Year 10 and above some students may wish to wear subtle makeup. This needs to be makeup that does not draw attention to the fact that it is being worn. Please remind your child that makeup is not necessary for school, especially at KS3. Jewellery should not be worn aside from a single pair of stud earrings and/or one charity band.

If you have any questions or concerns about uniform or anything else for that matter, please feel free to contact the school either contacting your child's tutor, Head of Year or myself, depending on who you feel is most appropriate. All email addresses are available on the Contact Us page of the school website. In line with our school respectful email agreement, I would appreciate it if emails to teaching staff could be sent before 6 pm where possible.

Yours sincerely



Alex Kerr
Acting Principal