



4th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers;

**We are extremely grateful to all the students who volunteered to support the school at Open Evening last Thursday.** This important event would not be the same without these valuable contributions; it was a thorough success and I considered myself privileged to see how the school came together, to truly show off the amazing experiences on offer here. Thank you.

**Keeping them going:** After four busy weeks, some of our students are understandably showing signs of tiredness after working hard through lessons, homework, SPS and extra-curricular activities. As our children grow, we know they are desperate to be independent and in charge of their own routines; however we also know we must act in their best interests to remind them to go to bed at a reasonable time, eat filling and healthy meals (including breakfast) and turn mobile phones off in the evening to give themselves a good break. Your help and support in reiterating this is very much appreciated. It is also important for our students to know that it is normal, and okay, to get stressed and anxious from time to time. These feelings are valid and must be acknowledged, but we must also make sure our students are resilient to reasonable levels of pressure and we will continue to encourage everyone to be in lessons as much as possible and work through minor ailments and anxieties. Students are always welcome to talk through any worries twice a day with their Form tutors, as well as coming to seek pastoral or medical help before school, after school, during break and lunchtime.

Data from our children at Sentamu historically shows that those who attend over 95% of the time are 3 times more likely to achieve their target grades than those who attend poorly; please bear this in mind.

**Keeping items safe:** Regrettably, we have had a recent spate of the public breaking into site by climbing fences and stealing bikes. The school is not insured for this and items brought to school are left at the owner's risk. If a bike is locked securely the thieves go away empty handed.

**Keeping in the know:** Please check your child's planner at least weekly and remember to sign it. Your child should have all the weekly homework written in. The homework timetable is such that for most students there should be at least one subject setting homework each day.

Keep an eye out for codes and if your child has some ask them about how they can improve their organisation or behaviour. If there are no codes, there should be plenty of stamps too and this is worth a really big "pat on the back".

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**Vaccinations:** Please will parents keep an eye out for the vaccinations consent form. This is issued on behalf of Intrahealth who administer vaccines for the NHS. You are completely at liberty to choose a YES or a NO to a vaccine, but if you want one done you must return the form with your child to their form tutor before the end of Wednesday.

**Sixth form news:**

**Post-18 Options** – Year 13 are focused on Post-18 options. Students started the UCAS process in the last week of the summer term and now continue with their applications. For those not wanting to apply to university, they are being asked to complete a personal statement to support applications for employment/apprenticeships.

**Competitive Admissions** – The Competitive Admissions applications deadline is Friday 15th October. This means that students applying for Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Oxford or Cambridge need to be proactive in completing their personal statements, UCAS application personal information, booking admissions tests and speaking to Mrs Hill if they need anything.

**Collective Worship:** We have started the year focussing on our core values sharing key Bible stories. Our themes have been: Living the best life possible, John 10:10; Respect, Matthew 7:12, Community, Luke 10:25 and Courage, Luke 15:11. Next week we consider our fourth value of Wisdom using Matthew 7:23.

Once again I'd like to thank you for all of your support. There has been a very strong start to the new year and the majority of children have risen to the new challenges and opportunities with real gusto and promise. Please remember that the most efficient way to get in touch with school, should you require support or advice is: [hello@asa.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@asa.hslt.academy).

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Helen Dowds  
Executive Principal