



From the Headteacher - 2 May 2025

Dear Parents

I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy a break during the recent holiday; we now return for what is an unusually short, but equally busy half term.

New Minibus

I am delighted to report that our new minibus has arrived. In the short-term, this will be an addition to our existing fleet, giving us the flexibility to perhaps retire one of our older vehicles in due course. We are extremely grateful to the Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association (PTFA) for funding the purchase of this new minibus, an invaluable addition to the School's resources. The PTFA's ability to do this for the School is the result of the tireless efforts of parent volunteers, who organise and run countless fundraising events throughout the academic year. I know I have said it before – the School would be considerably worse off without their immense support.

As ever, if you would like to find out more about the work of the PTFA, or to volunteer your support, however small, please do get in touch with Kerry Williams, our PTFA Chair, on PAChair@strs.org.uk.

Malta Netball Tour

Our Netball A and B teams enjoyed a fantastic tour of Malta over the Easter holidays, with both teams winning their first two matches against local sides 27-15 and 26-16 respectively. The final fixture took place at *Kirkop Sports Centre* against the Malta U17 side, with a 56-15 win for Rich's. The players who were off court kindly helped with the U12 Maltese training session on the other court, a great example of Richian spirit in action. My thanks once again to Netball Coaches Mrs Brown and Mrs Lynn for all their hard work and commitment to ensuring that our impressive fixture list and the Malta Tour continue to take place.

Examinations

We are now well into our busy examination period, with Year 7 pupils taking their assessments this week, and Year 8 having begun theirs yesterday. We hope that these assessments will be a valuable indicator of progress made so far this year, as well as be a valuable experience of what it will be like to sit the more formal examinations in the coming years.

GCSE and A Level public examinations have also started in earnest, with practical examinations in MFL, Drama, Photography and Art all taking place this week. Looking ahead, Wednesday 7 May marks the last day of formal lessons for our Year 11 and 13 students before they begin their study leave. As I said specifically to members of Year 11 and 13 in the final assembly of last term: "You are, and have been, an incredible group of individuals – you have impressed throughout your time at the School in multiple ways and you deserve, and we wish you, every success." I also reminded the School that, whilst of course important, GCSE and A Level results will not define you as an individual – they will not be the one thing you are known for; everything you have achieved in all areas and the person you are is what is important. However, by taking the opportunity to work hard, now, and to aim to achieve your very best is all that can be asked of you, and is ultimately what will give you the 'keys' to open as many doors as possible in your future.

It goes without saying that, despite study leave beginning, we have not reached the end of our time together; support remains in place for any concerns during the examination period and beyond, be they subject queries or personal issues.

For your information, to support the running of the external examinations, as we have done in previous years, we will be adjusting the timings of the school day to ensure that afternoon examinations do not start during lunchtime. From Thursday 8 May, lunchtime starts at the earlier time of 12.25pm (end of Period 3); Period 4 will then start 1.15pm, with Period 5 at 2.20pm. The School day will end at the normal time (3.20pm), and we will revert back to the normal timetable once the examination period has finished.

CHANGES TO SCHOOL DAY TIMES DURING PUBLIC EXAMS (8 MAY - 20 JUNE 2025)

Tutor Period	08:30 - 08:55	25 minutes
Period 1	09:00 - 10:00	60 minutes
Period 2	10:05 - 11:05	60 minutes
Break	11:05 - 11:25	20 minutes
Period 3	11:25 - 12:25	60 minutes
Lunch	12:25 - 13:15	50 minutes
Period 4	13:15 - 14:15	60 minutes
Period 5	14:20 - 15:20	60 minutes
Period 6	15:30 - 16:15	45 minutes

Summer Uniform Expectations

We have enjoyed some lovely weather this week, and we have been reminding pupils of the uniform expectations in the Summer Term. Normal school uniform should continue to be worn, although pupils can remove blazers in lessons if the class teacher permits them to do so. During this term, pupils may also wear the crested short-sleeve shirt without a tie should they wish.

I will endeavour to let pupils and parents know by email if and when the weather justifies a declaration of *officially hot*. This particular phrase is something of a Tommy's tradition, having existed in the School for some decades; it means that, should the weather become particularly hot, pupils do not need to wear blazers or ties, and shirt top buttons should be undone if pupils choose to not wear ties. Shirts, however, should still be tucked in.

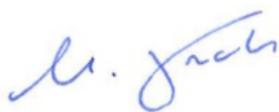
Key Dates

Please find below a reminder of some key dates for the upcoming Summer Term:

- Monday 5 May – Bank Holiday, school closed.
- Friday 23 May – end of half term, 3.20pm finish.
- Monday 2 June – start of term.
- Friday 20 June – INSET day, school closed to all pupils.
- Thursday 3 July – Sports Evening
- Thursday 10 July – Summer Concert
- Thursday 17 July – end of Summer Term, 12.45pm finish.

Finally, in wishing you an enjoyable weekend, good luck must also go to the Year 9 and 10 pupils undertaking their DofE Bronze and Silver practice expeditions, where (for once) the weather promises to remain pleasant for the bank holiday. My thanks to Mrs Rigby-Smith who works incredibly hard leading the School's DofE programme.

Best wishes



Matthew Lynch

HEADTEACHER

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