16th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of this term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that our students have accomplished and share some important updates as we prepare for the upcoming break.

This half term has been filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments. It has been a joy to see your children engage with new material, develop their skills, and build friendships. Whether it's through academic achievements, participation in class discussions, or their involvement in extracurricular activities, each student has contributed to making this half term a successful one.

**Here are a few highlights from the last half term:**

* **Academic Progress:** Our students in Year 11 have all completed full mock exams in preparation for their summer exams and have now been focusing on their application forms to our 6th Form. Our Year 10 GCSE Geography students completed their GCSE Fieldwork at FSC Amersham on the River Wey
* **Personal Development:** We have developed some fantastic partnerships with the Donmar Theatre this term which has enabled students to take part and perform in various workshops and a number of students visiting different plays and productions at theatres in London this term. Our Year 9 students have had a careers talk on Post 16 routes as we begin to look at their GCSE options next term. Year 12 students have had work experience opportunities with The Society of Antiquaries and workshops with PA Consulting. Year 9, 10 11 students have been to King’s College University for a Robotics Challenge and Year 13 had a presentation from Odd Balls to raise awareness of Testicular Cancer.
* **Our Student Leadership team** continue to drive our ethos and values through whole school collective worship, themed weeks and charity focuses through Anti-Bullying Week and our Homelessness Appeal. This has resulted in charity appeals for Children in Need and Shelter, including a 10km walk by staff and students for Shelter and a group of staff completing a Run in the Dark for ending Paralysis across the world.

**Arrangements for the last week of this term:**

* **Wednesday 18th December 2024** – All students in Year 7-13 will be able to select the Christmas Dinner at Lunch time if they choose too.
* **Thursday 19th December 2024 –** Year 11 students will receive their mock exam results in a special assembly.
* **Friday 20th December 2024** – All students will have their Rewards Assembly today. Students will then be dismissed from school at the following times:
  + **Year 7, 8, 9 students – Dismissed from 12:15pm**
  + **Year 11 – Dismissed from 12:20pm**
  + **Year 10, 12 and 13 – Dismissed from 12:30pm**

**Looking Ahead to Next Term:**

We are already excited for what’s to come in the next half term! Please see below a snapshot of what is already planned for the students but this will not include all of the opportunities we have on offer.

* Year 11 students will receive back their mock exams and will spend some quality time ‘upgrading’ these to ensure any misconceptions or missed marks are addressed.
* Year 12 will be sitting Mid-Year Exams from 7th January 2025 – 17th January 2025
* Year 9 Options will be launched with student/Parents and Carers
* Year 11 Tiering Exams for selected students for Maths, Science and MFL exams week beginning Monday 20th January – Friday 24th January 2025.
* Well-Being Fortnight for St Augustine’s for Year 7-13 – Monday 3rd February – Friday 14th February 2025
* Road Safety Presentation and Production of Romeo and Juliet for Year 7 and Year 8

**Parents Evenings:**

Thank you to Year 9, 10 11, 12 and 13 Parents/Carers that attended the Parents Evening events this half term. Please do ensure that you complete the feedback questionnaire that is sent out after the event. All feedback is valuable for us and we want to know what we are doing well at and what you may need further information on.

We collate all of the responses and use these to inform plans moving forward. Please find an example of some of the responses of Year 11 parents below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree and Agree |
| 1. My child is happy at school | 100% |
| 1. My child feels safe at school | 100% |
| 1. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved | 96.2% |
| 1. The school has high expectations for my child | 96.3% |
| 1. My child does well at this school | 95.2% |
| 1. The school lets me know how my child is doing | 98.7% |
| 1. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school | 96.4% |
| 1. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school | 95.1% |
| 1. The school supports my child wider personal development | 96.2% |
| 1. I would recommend the school to another parent | 96.4% |

We will continue to share examples of the parent responses with you all. Please also find the dates of the upcoming Parents Evenings taking place after Christmas:

* **Year 11 Parents Evening** – Wednesday 15th January 2025
* **Year 8 Parents Evening** – Thursday 23rd January 2025
* **Year 7 Parents Evening** – Wednesday 29th January 2025

**We are also working towards becoming a UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School.** This initiative is an important part of our school’s commitment to ensuring that every child’s rights are respected and upheld. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is based on the values of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including equality, dignity, respect, and participation. We are excited to involve our students in this journey, where they will not only learn about their rights but will also put them into practice every day. We hope you will support us as we continue on this path. You can find more information about the Rights Respecting Schools Award at [www.unicef.org.uk](http://www.unicef.org.uk).

**Important Reminders:** Our Term Dates are always published on our website but you can also find them here - <https://www.stahigh.org/school-life/term-dates/>

* **Monday 6th January 2025 –** School is closed for all students (Staff INSET day)
* **Tuesday 7th January 2025 –** School open for Year 7-13, 8.45am start.
* **Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2025 -** February Half Term 2025

All students are expected to attend on Tuesday 7th January in full school uniform with the correct equipment. Please ensure the following:

* Any Parent Pay account has been topped up
* Any new devices such as Mobile Phones, Air pods, Smartwatches are not brought to school. Mobile phones must not be seen, heard or used.
* Any new school jumpers must be plain, navy blue and V-neck
* Students must be wearing their blazer every day
* Students must be wearing their lanyard and ID card every day
* School badges, ties, lanyards and ID cards can all be purchased from Parent Pay.

We will be continuing our focus with the students in January on Uniform and being ready to learn. We will also be launching with students how to have more respectful conversations with staff and targeting students to ensure they are in lessons and engaged with their learning within 4 minutes. We will explain all of this in more detail to the students on Tuesday 7th January but please do have a conversation with your child/ren about our focus.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of students, and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow in the coming months. I encourage you all to take this break as an opportunity for rest and reflection, as we prepare for another term of learning and growth.

Wishing you and your family a restful and joyful holiday season.

Yours Sincerely



Ms Rachel Kelly   
Head of St Augustine’s CE High School