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A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values

July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Before we break for the Summer holidays we would like to take this opportunity to update you on some developments and new systems that we are introducing in preparation for September 2017. As we have frequently stated, the positive partnerships between parents/carers and St John's are key to raising the aspirations and achievements of our students and, with this in mind, we believe the changes will help us to support our young people with their education to enable them to fulfil their ambitions.

As ever, if you feel that you need any further clarification on any of the following, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss the points in more detail.

MYED PARENT APP

We are pleased to announce that, from September, we are piloting a free parent app called *MyEd* which will help us to share information with you regarding your son/daughter's education. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance details, timetable, absence records, achievements, and much, much more.

The app will enable us to send you messages directly and remind you of events that are taking place at school. You will receive a notification if we send you a message and there is no charge for the messages that you send to us. We believe this will provide an effective and quick means of communication between home and school. If you are interested in trialling the *MyEd* app, it is available for both Apple iOS and Android devices and can be found on either the Apple App Store or on Google Play by searching for *MyEd*. Once you have installed and opened *MyEd*, search for **St John's School and Sixth Form College** and follow the simple instructions to identify yourself.

Please do not worry if you do not own a smartphone, or would rather not use the app. We will still provide you with regular feedback and written correspondence regarding your child's education and events at school.

STUDENTS' USE OF MOBILE PHONES

Whilst we fully understand the benefits of digital communication, we have a growing concern regarding students bringing/using mobile phones on and around the school site, particularly as it often distracts students from their learning and can lead to misuse.   Sixth form students are asked to restrict their mobile phone use to the Sixth Form/Cyber Bistro only in order to set a good example to lower school students.

PROGRESS EVENINGS

Whilst we have acknowledged the benefits of the *MyEd* app, the opportunities to discuss your child's progress in person are invaluable. Our Progress Evenings will continue from September with our subject staff available to answer your queries, provide details of progress and celebrate your child's achievements. From September our Progress Evenings will take place on Wednesdays and will continue in the same format, but will begin at 2.30pm in an attempt to accommodate the majority of families. **On the day of a Progress Evening, the school day will end at 2.00pm** with normal transport arrangements in place. These key dates will be available on our website and via the 'Key Dates' section of the 'MyEd' app at the start of the new academic year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Sixth form students should wear black and white professional dress, including a collared shirt or blouse, plain black jumper, plain back trousers or skirt, plain black shoes and a sixth form tie for boys.

Sixth form ties are available to purchase from Sixth Form reception on the interview days – Wednesday, 30 and Thursday, 31 August 2017.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Friday, 21 July 2017 will be a non-uniform day for all students and we ask that students contribute £1 which will be donated to our school's charitable funds including Project Peru.   The school will close at 1.00pm for the Summer break.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very enjoyable and relaxing Summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming all students back for the new academic year on Tuesday, 5 September 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Byron   **Chris Parker**
Headteacher   Deputy Headteacher