

July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Before we break for the Summer holidays, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as the positive partnerships between parents/carers and St John's are key to raising the aspirations and achievements of our students. By working together and setting high expectations and standards, we can guide and 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.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

As you are aware from our MyED messages and social media posts, school will end for students at 1.35pm on Wednesday, 20 July and we hope all of our students and their families enjoy a relaxing, happy and safe Summer break.

SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

We have previously issued a separate letter which reinforces our uniform expectations and standards. This is available on our website. Please see the details below and refer to our website information so that your child has the correct uniform for September 2022. Please let us know if you need any assistance in purchasing uniform for your child.

We would like to remind you that school uniform may be purchased from our uniform suppliers: Elizabeth's Embroidery (www.elizabethsembroidery.com) and Cre8ive Graphics in Bishop Auckland.

KS3 and KS4 Uniform Expectations

- ✓ Maroon blazer
- ✓ School tie – eagle below the knot
- ✓ White plain shirt – buttoned at the top and tucked in
- ✓ Black trousers – **straight leg style** (*"Skinny" trousers, jeans or leggings are not allowed*)
- ✓ Black pleated skirt worn with black opaque tights
- ✓ Plain black v-neck jumper or plain black v-neck tank-top (optional)
- ✓ **Black smart dress shoes** (*no trainers, plimsolls or canvas shoes*)
- ✓ Coat for outdoor use – break time and lunchtime

For September 2022, the tie stripe colours are:

- Year 7 Orange
- Year 8 Turquoise
- Year 9 Maroon
- Year 10 Lilac
- Year 11 Green

PE Kit Expectations

- ✓ Maroon polo shirt or maroon t-shirt with St John's logo
- ✓ Black shadow stripe shorts – no logo
- ✓ Maroon sports socks – no logo
- ✓ Trainers and 3G footwear (astroturf boots / plastic moulded studs)
- ✓ Shinpads
- ✓ Swimming costume, goggles and towel
- ✓ Plain black hoodie with or without St John's logo (optional)

Sixth Form students are expected to project themselves as positive role models for the younger year groups. We believe that attitude to appearance has an impact on attitude to effort and, therefore, we require our students to dress in a smart and respectful way.

Sixth Form Dress Code

- ✓ Plain white or plain black polo shirt
- ✓ White shirt worn with Sixth Form tie
- ✓ Black trousers (***"Skinny" trousers, jeans, leggings, jogging bottoms or sportswear are not allowed***)
- ✓ Black skirts of a professional length
- ✓ Plain black jumper (optional)

READY TO LEARN

It is vital that all students are ready to learn and are fully prepared for their lessons. Bringing the correct equipment to school every day will ensure that all students are fully prepared for every task so that effective learning can take place. A reminder of the equipment required is listed below:

- Bag large enough to carry books and folders
- Planner provided by school
- Pencil case
- Scientific calculator
- Whiteboard pen and whiteboard rubber
- Glue stick
- 2 black pens and 2 pencils
- Rubber and pencil sharpener
- 30cm ruler and protractor
- Compass
- 3 highlighters
- Coloured pencils
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CONGREGATION AREAS FROM SEPTEMBER 2022

Students are expected to be on school site and at their congregation areas by **8.50am** every day. Year groups will congregate in the following areas:

- Year 7 Outside area between the Main Hall and the Science block
- Year 8 Outside the Sportshall
- Year 9 Grassed area in front of the portacabins
- Year 10 Large Quad Area
- Year 11 Dining Room
- Sixth Form Sixth Form Bistro

Thank you for your help and support in ensuring children are always punctual to school.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND TERM DATES

Our school term dates for 2022-23 are available on our website. Please avoid taking students out of school during term time for holidays as their absence has a significantly negative impact on their education, which can ultimately affect the progress they make in their studies.

USEFUL PARENT APPS

The free parent app **MyEd** is a very effective way of communicating with you and sharing information regarding your child's education. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance details, timetable, absence records, achievements, and much, much more.

If you are a first-time user of 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.

Another useful app is **ClassCharts** which informs parents/carers of their child's achievements and attitudes to learning. The app shows students' contributions to school and to the wider community. Parents/carers and students are able to reflect on progress, review behaviour and monitor homework.



Finally, please note that we are a cashless school and **Scopay** is the online payment system used by parents/carers to pay for children's meals, educational visits and residential trips. A Paypoint card is also available to anyone who would prefer to use this method. If you have any additional queries regarding our online payment system, please contact our Finance Team.

STUDENTS' WATER BOTTLES

We are continuing to encourage our students to bring in their own reusable water bottles from home, which they can fill up with juice or water from our water-coolers that are located around the school site. From September, students, who bring in their own reusable bottles, will be rewarded with house points. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that energy drinks/fizzy pop are not allowed in school due to the unsettling effects these drinks can have on students' concentration in lessons.

PROGRESS AND INFORMATION 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 and Information 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 Thursdays and will begin at 3.30pm. 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.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very enjoyable, relaxing and safe Summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming all students back for the new academic year on **Tuesday, 6 September 2022**.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Byron
Headteacher