



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 13 OCTOBER 2017

Important Dates Week Commencing Monday 16th October is Week 1

Monday 16th October	Open Morning 0915—1030
Thursday 19th October	Year 7 County Championship Rugby @ Aylesbury RFC (Mr Thomas)
Friday 20th October	3pm break up for half term
Monday 30th October (Week 2)	Students return to school

NB: The Parent calendar is available on our website; it is continually being updated so please do refer to the website for updates.

Medical Information—Important

Please could we ask parents/carers to complete the school medical form (Please click [here](#)) if your child's medical needs have changed in any way and to return it to Matron as soon as possible. You will of course appreciate how vital it is for us to have up to date information on our system for your child. If a paper copy of the form is needed, please collect one from Matron.

Maths Revision Guides for KS3 & KS4 students available —please click [here](#):

Yr9 Samba Drumming Workshop

Thank you for all of the support from parents and carers with regards to the Samba Drumming workshop. This will take place on November 16th during the school day in MH1. The deadline is now closed for payments and participation. Those not attending will be in normal lessons or watching if they have a music lesson. **Mr Maxwell, Head of Music**

Sixth Form News

A reminder that our Year 12 students will be visited by 'Elevate' on Monday 16th October and will be given a presentation called 'Study Sensei' – This session will answer the fundamental question of 'what is study'? This will be broken down into 4 key areas - reading, independent learning, note taking and conceptual learning. This will give the students the study skills required of top students and provide them with a road-map of what work they need to be doing across the year and how they can do this. Details can be found at www.elevateeducation.com

Sir William Ramsay School has been able to negotiate a discounted rate for our students and would like to request a voluntary contribution of £4.00, per student, to cover the cost of this valuable and positive training. This has been added as a payment option on Parentpay. You can pay online or request a barcode letter from Ms Forde, Student Reception, to pay cash at any of the Paypoint machines available in local retail shops.

Important Reminder; Please note our revised contact details as below. Our previous email address is no longer in use. Emails to the school should be sent to: office@swr.school

Headteacher: Christine McLintock

Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7UB T: 01494 815211 E: office@swr.school www.swr.school



At the Parent Council meeting in September, I was asked about how teaching groups are setup in Maths, English and Science. The table below explains how students are grouped together in these subjects and the reasoning behind it.

Mrs McLintock

Maths, English and Science setting 2017-18

	English	Maths	Science
Year 7 Grouping arrangements	Students are taught in form groups so they are mixed ability.	Seven ability sets across the year group.	Students are taught in form groups so they are mixed ability.
Rationale	Students undertake rigorous assessment throughout the year allowing us to set for Year 8	Setting across the whole cohort allows us to stretch the most able students and support less able students to best effect.	Research has shown that mixed ability teaching in Science supports the progress of all students.
Year 8 Grouping arrangements	These are set into ability groups based on previous years' progress and are taught in half year groups.	Maths is taught in half year groups and students are put in sets. There are two top sets three middle sets and two lower sets.	Students are taught in form groups so they are mixed ability.
Rationale	Setting students gives teachers the opportunity to teach to a group's strengths and stretch the most able in each.	It was not possible to set groups across the whole cohort for timetabling reasons. However, setting in two halves still allows us to stretch the most able students and support less able students to best effect.	See Year 7.
Year 9 Grouping arrangements	There are seven ability sets to prepare them for GCSE	Seven ability sets across the year group. Sets 1-4 follow Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Sets 5-7 follow the Foundation Tier (grades 1-5).	Students are taught in form groups so they are mixed ability.
Rationale	Higher ability sets can begin to access GCSE work at level 4-5 standard	By teaching Set 4 the higher content, we are providing them with the opportunity to aim at the Higher Tier. It may be necessary to move some students onto the Foundation Tier at a later date but the Higher Tier covers the content of the Foundation Tier.	See Year 7.
Year 10 Grouping arrangements	Six ability sets across the year. Two groups are accelerated sets.	Six ability sets across the year group. Sets 1-4 follow the Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Sets 5 and 6 follow the Foundation Tier (grades 1-5).	Mixed ability groupings for the four Double Science groups. There is a Triple Science group of students that have chosen to take the three sciences separately rather than together.

Rationale	The accelerated sets can generate higher thinking skills whilst also focusing on challenging technical development	By teaching Set 4 the higher content, we are providing them with the opportunity to aim at the Higher Tier. It may be necessary to move some students onto the Foundation Tier at a later date but the Higher Tier covers the content of the Foundation Tier.	See Year 7.
Year 11 Grouping arrangements	Ongoing from Year 10 unless changes are needed.	Six ability sets across the year group. Sets 1-3 follow the Higher Tier (grades 4-9) and sets 4-6 the Foundation Tier (grades 1-5).	Four mixed ability groupings until the mocks and then groups are reviewed based on the decision as to the tier of entry for each student. There is a Triple Science group of students that have chosen to take the three sciences separately rather than together.
Rationale	See Year 10.	It may be necessary to move a few students onto the Foundation Tier after the Mocks in November but the Higher Tier covers the content of the Foundation Tier.	The Higher Tier is taught until the Mocks and then initial decisions are made after that about tiers of entry per student.