



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 20 OCTOBER 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that half term is upon us and I wish all students a good holiday. Our students in Years 11 and 13 have plenty of work to do as they return to mock exams.

I have very much enjoyed my first half term as the Headteacher of Sir William Ramsay School. The welcome from the entire school community has helped me to settle in very quickly and to focus on our key priority of improving the academic progress of all students.

We have had a very successful Open Evening and Open Mornings where we have welcomed over 1000 visitors. Our students have proudly shown visitors around and talked to them about their daily life at Sir William Ramsay School.

The HMI monitoring visit went very well and confirmed that effective action is being taken to move the school to "Good". We have plenty to do especially around the academic progress of boys and the more able and these are our key foci this school year.

Progress data for secondary schools was published nationally last week and we were pleased to see the improvement in our GCSE progress measures and how we compared favourably to other local schools. Our Post-16 progress was not as good but we expect significant improvements next summer in light of the changes that have been brought in. Heads of Department have been analysing the performance of students in this summer's external exams and they have incorporated actions into not only current Years 11 and 13 but also further down the school in Years 7 to 10 so that, where need be, specific skills or knowledge are taught earlier.

We have been reviewing the way that we communicate with parents and carers and I would like to thank the Parent Council for their input. We have moved away from SIMS Learning Gateway to Schools Gateway which means that parents/carers have access to key information through a simple app. We will be expanding what information will be available to parents/carers through the app as the school year progresses but our first priority is to get every parent/carers using it. Please sign up!

We are in the process of writing a new School Action Plan as the current version is due to end soon. We already have new actions in place based on the external exams analysis from this summer and on points made in the HMI letter. Parents/Carers will be sent a summary of the new Plan in early December where you will see that student academic progress is the key priority of staff and Governors.

I wish everyone a restful and safe half term.

**Christine McLintock**

**Headteacher**

**Medical Information—Important** Please could we ask parents /carers to complete the school medical form (see link) 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.

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](mailto:office@swr.school)

Headteacher: Christine McLintock

Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7UB T: 01494 815211 E: [office@swr.school](mailto:office@swr.school) [www.swr.school](http://www.swr.school)



**Important Dates**

Week Commencing Monday 30th October is

**Week 2**

Friday 20th October

Break up for Half Term

Monday 30th October

School re-opens / Y11 &amp; Y13 PPE Examinations commence (end 10 Nov)

Please see [link](#) to the Mock Exam timetable on our website

Important: A reminder that 6th Form Open Evening takes place on 16th November, 6.30 pm in the Main Hall, Performing Arts Centre

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

**Absence**

If your child is absent for any reason please contact the school before 10.00am. There are a variety of ways to ensure the school has been informed:

Telephone the school on 01494 815211, select option 1 and leave a clear message on the answerphone.

Email the Attendance and Welfare Officer: [valdred@swr.School](mailto:valdred@swr.School)

School Gateway, the smartphone app or web based portal available to all parents

Whichever option you choose, clearly state your name, the pupil's name and Tutor Group, plus a brief reason for the absence. All late arrivals and reported absences will be updated to registers by 10.00am.

If we have not received a message reporting the reason for absence by 10.00 am you will receive a text saying "<student name> has not registered at school today AM, <date>". Please respond to this by replying to the text message, ringing the absence line or sending an email, as outlined above. Your child will be expected to catch up with missed work upon their return.

If we do not receive a reason for your child's absence, the school will mark this on the register as unauthorised.

It is expected that student absence should be reported every day; this also applies to an absence for part of the day. Please follow this up with a note on their return.

**Dental/Medical appointments - advance notice**

If you know in advance of your child's absence from school on specific days, (for dental/medical treatment or for domestic reasons), prior notice should be given to the Attendance and Welfare Officer.

**Leave of absence**

If you wish to apply for leave of absence, this application should be made at least one month in advance directly to the Head on the appropriate form (which is available to download [here](#) or from the Attendance and Welfare Officer.) Please note that the granting of absence during term time is entirely at the discretion of the Head and is only made in exceptional circumstances.

**Contact**

For further information or queries regarding any of the above or other attendance issues, please contact the Attendance and Welfare Officer via e-mail: [valdred@swr.school](mailto:valdred@swr.school)

**Sixth Form News** - A reminder that our Year 12 were visited by 'Elevate' on Monday 16th October and given a presentation called 'Study Sensei' – This session answered the fundamental question of 'what is study'? This was broken down into 4 key areas - reading, independent learning, note taking and conceptual learning. This gave students the study skills required of top students and provided 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](http://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.



Tickets for this year's Shakespeare School Festival are available from the Wycombe Swan box office.  
01494 512 000

This year's SSF production is Romeo and Juliet and will be performed on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November

**Auditions for our school show will take place on 2nd November, see poster below.**

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

Auditions Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 3-5 pm

in MU1

Auditions for this year's musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' will take place on Thursday 2nd November between 3-5pm in MU1.

To audition for a principal role **you must sign up** for an audition slot. (The sign up sheet is outside of the performing arts office). For your audition you will have to be prepared to sing a section from one of the two following songs. *Little Shop of Horrors / Suddenly Seymour*

The backingtrack for the two song sections are available on *Showmyhomework* along with the lyrics.

Once you have attended your audition slot you will be free to leave. If you wish to join the **chorus** you simply have to **sign up on the chorus list**. You will not have to attend on Thursday and do not have to prepare a song.

**The Musical is open to everyone across school!**

Any questions please see Mr Latchem or Mr Maxwell