



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Key Information and Reminders

As we come to the end of our first half term this academic year, I am writing with some updates and reminders about systems and processes in place to support the smooth running of the school.

However, I would firstly like to congratulate everyone at St Aidan's on the fantastic results that were achieved this summer. Last week the Department for Education published the 2023 exams data for all secondary schools, and we are pleased to be, once again, one of the highest performing state schools in the country. Our fantastic results can be seen on the DFE website compared with all other schools locally and nationally. The dedication from staff, students, and parents is clear and I wish to thank everyone for all that they do to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students we serve. We will have the opportunity to celebrate these achievements at our GCSE Presentation of Certificates Evening (held on Wednesday 8th November at 7pm in Constance Green Hall) with last years' year 11 students: congratulations to everyone.

On Tuesday morning I spoke to all students in our whole school assembly to remind them of the importance of communicating with respect. Most students treat others with kindness and always show self-control, but we do still have a few students who make poor behaviour choices, and we are keen to eradicate this to ensure everyone feels valued and included. I also spoke about the need to always wear the correct smart uniform to reflect respect for our school expectations. Please could I ask you as parents and carers to ensure your child is in correct uniform each day. A copy of the uniform expectations can be found on page 7 of the student planner as a useful reminder.

When we return from the half term break on Monday the 6th of November, we will be launching our new expectations around the presentation of work in textbooks. All students will be asked to write in black pen and ensure all pieces of work have a date and title which is underlined. Research shows that good presentation promotes a sense of pride for students which can fuel positive engagement with teachers which helps students learn. Revision is easier when work is clearly labelled and being mindful about how work is presented is a skill for life. External exams must be completed using black ink only, so getting students used to this early is beneficial.

We have noticed several students arriving to school without their ID card. As well as using this in the canteen, entry to the school site and many of our external doors is via this card key only. If your child forgets to bring their ID card to school, they will be unable to access all areas of the school building, and this may result in students missing valuable learning time. Please ensure your child brings this ID card with them to school every day. Replacement cards can be purchased for £5 via ParentPay if needed.

Cont.

Headteacher: Mrs S Dover

Cont.

One final reminder is that the school day starts promptly at 8:45am. Please make sure your child is in school for this time every day. Students may arrive to school from 8:00am onwards but they must go only to the sixth form café unless they have been invited for a specific event with a member of staff. Unfortunately, we are unable to have any staff on duty until 8:30am so students must not be anywhere in school other than the sixth form café area before this time.

Thank you for the continued support you give to St Aidan's and for your encouragement in helping us to provide an excellent education where each and everyone knows the gift of life in all its fullness. I wish you all a peaceful half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday the 6th of November.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Siân Dover

Headteacher