

September 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Welcome to the New Academic Year 2011-12**

I am writing to welcome you and your child back to St. John's after the summer break and to provide you with essential information for the start of the school year. For new parents and carers of our Year 7 students and other new students, I would like to formally welcome you to the St. John's community for what I hope will be a happy and successful partnership between the school, your child and home.

### **GCSE Exam Results 2011**

Year 11 GCSE exam results were the best ever achieved by students at the school. 53% of students achieved 5 A\* - C grades including English and Maths. This represents an improvement of 20% over the last two years. 69% of students achieved 5 A\* - C grades across all subjects and this represents an improvement of 22% in the last two years. Please see the school website for details of our outstanding results.

We are confident of even better results in 2012, and in years to come, based on our rigorous assessment and tracking systems and high standards of learning and teaching in the classroom.

### **Standards and Expectations**

In my Assemblies last week I reinforced to the students our high expectations for learning and achievement, which are the main priorities of the school. We offer a wealth of stimulating and inspirational learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, which should engage our students and enable them to develop academically, personally and socially.

I have always valued the support of our parents and carers which strengthens the essential partnership between the school and the home and provides the environment to enable our students to enjoy their education and achieve. We are again scheduling Standards and Expectation Evenings for parents and carers of students in Years 8 – 11. I do hope as many of you as possible are able to attend.

We always want to encourage positive behaviour in our students and praise and reward them for their achievement, preparing them to become good, responsible citizens, sensitive and tolerant of those around them.

Last year we launched our 5 non-negotiable expectations to focus our students on readiness for learning. We expect students to:

- Arrive on time to every lesson
- Be well-equipped for learning
- Wear the correct uniform
- Settle quickly and be ready to learn
- Have their planners visible in every lesson

We also expect high standards of uniform, which should be worn correctly at all times.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that nail varnish is not permitted in school. This includes false nails and gel nails. School shoes should be black with no logo or coloured stitching. Trainers are not acceptable. We expect all students to come to school fully equipped with a pencil case containing essentials such as pens, pencils, rulers and a rubber.

I am confident that parents and carers will understand and support the school's position on these issues. We know you will agree that it is important that our high academic standards are met with high expectations across the school.

It would also be extremely helpful if parents/carers could inform the school of any changes to emergency contact details by notifying the School Office.

### **New Teaching Staff at St. John's**

I would like to introduce the following new teaching staff to the school.

Mr. Paul Cooper	Science
Ms. Charlotte Gales	Science
Ms. Sally Marshall	Design Technology
Ms. Sarah Montgomery	PE
Ms. Wendy Savaker	Director of Learning (Maths and Numeracy)

I am sure that they will all add to the already high quality of teaching within the school.

At St. John's we are determined to move the school from 'good', as judged in the last two OFSTED Inspection Reports, to 'outstanding'. Significant improvements in exam results, the quality of learning and teaching and student behaviour since the last inspection are already moving the school in the right direction so, with your support, we will achieve this goal.

### **What is happening this term?**

The key dates for the Autumn Term are attached and reminder letters for some events will be sent nearer the day. Please keep this list for future reference. Our next major event is Open Evening on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please also refer to our website for the latest information.

I am pleased to celebrate the successful launch of Vertical Tutoring and our new House System which are already bringing great benefits to the pastoral welfare and well-being of our students.

At St. John's School we are proud to celebrate the successes and achievements of our students and this may involve taking photographs of the students. May I remind parents and carers to contact the School Office if you do **not** wish photographs of your children to be used for display in school or for marketing purposes.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the start of building works on our brand new school which will be ready by September 2013. This has been the culmination of a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We can now look forward to iconic school buildings that Epping children will enjoy for generations to come.

Here's to a great year at St. John's. Together we can make a difference.

Yours faithfully,

G. Yerosimou  
Headteacher

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**REPLY SLIP  
PLEASE RETURN TO FORM TUTOR**

**Name of Student..... Form.....**

I acknowledge receipt of the Headteacher's Standards and Expectation Letter.

**Signature of Parent/Carer .....**

**Parent/Carer Name (please print) .....**

**Date .....**

## Key Dates for the Autumn Term

16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 11 Geography Field Trip
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Open Evening - Early Closure at 1.05 p.m.
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Mornings for Prospective Parents
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Mornings for Prospective Parents
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 9 Standards Evening
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 9 Assessment Week
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8 Standards Evening
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Boys, Beer and Books
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Years 10 and 11 Functional Skills Tests
13 <sup>th</sup> October	SLT Clinic
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Student/Parent and Carer Meetings
24-28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 8 Assessment Week
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Sixth Form Evening
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 7 Settling-In Evening
8 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> November	GCSE Module Exams
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Student/Parent and Carer Meetings
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Cervical Cancer Immunisations
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Assessment Week
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Careers Convention
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 11 Harlow College Roadshow
24 <sup>th</sup> November	GCSE Presentation Evening
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Mock Exams Week
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Lighting the Christmas Tree
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Boys, Beer and Books
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 8 Student/Parent and Carer Meetings
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Celebration Assembly Week
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert
16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Ski Trip
16 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Autumn Term - 12.05 p.m.
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Start of Spring Term – 8.30 a.m.