

Our Ref: GYu/DTe

14<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

May I take this opportunity to welcome back our students and their parents/carers to St John's after the Summer break and extend a warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their parents and carers.

I have already spoken to students in their Assemblies at the start of term about ~~Go~~ing for Gold and setting themselves challenging personal goals for the year and being disciplined and determined to achieve their goals. This will also require perseverance throughout the year and the essential support of teaching and support staff and parents and carers.

I believe strongly in the St John's Community, which is based on a well-established partnership between the home and the school and allows our students to be happy in their environment, feel safe and most importantly, to achieve. There is a very positive atmosphere in the school, which reinforces the strength of our community and I am convinced the school will continue to go from strength to strength and offer our students a first class education to equip them for the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

It was only a few months ago in June 2009 that OFSTED inspected the school and made the following judgements:

**“St John's provides a Good standard of education”**

**“Teaching is Good”**

**“Students are cared for, guided and supported well”**

**“Students feel safe and secure”**

I would like to take this opportunity to update parents/carers on a number of issues relating to the school and would particularly like to draw your attention to some of the important forthcoming events which you may like to pencil into your diaries.

### **GCSE Results 2009**

We were pleased with the GCSE results of our students in the Summer, with a significant number achieving the top grades of A\* and A in many of their subjects, and all our Year 11 students should be congratulated on their achievements.

### **Standards, Expectations and Achievement Evenings and Academic Review Day**

You will notice from the list of forthcoming events (at the end of this letter) that there are a number of opportunities for parents/carers to come into the school to find out more about how we can work together to maximise the performance of the students. There are also opportunities to celebrate our students' achievements.

I see these events as fundamental to the success and welfare of every child at the school. The support from teaching and support staff at school and the care and guidance of parents/carers in the home, who we hope will become better informed as a result of these events, can only bring greater benefits to your children. I do hope you can make every effort to attend these events which are relevant to your child's education.

### **Open Evening / Open Mornings / Academic Review Day**

The school will close at **1.15pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** to allow staff to prepare for the Open Evening which starts at **5.30pm** on that day. Parents/carers will need to make arrangements to supervise their children as a result of the early closure of the school. School buses will be re-scheduled to transport students home at that time.

The school will also be holding **Open Mornings from 8.50am to 11.00am on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**, when parents/carers with children at local Primary Schools can visit the school during normal working hours.

These events are very important and allow us to showcase what St John's has to offer to its local community and I am sure parents/carers will understand the need for the early closure on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**.

The school will be holding an **Academic Review Day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** for all Year Groups. Normal lessons will **not** take place on that day and we will be asking parents/carers to make appointments with their child's Form Tutor to discuss progress and set targets. Previous experience has confirmed that parents/carers and students have found these meetings very useful in supporting student progress. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform and will be expected to attend on that day at the time of their meeting with parents/carers and their Form Tutors.

### **Standards of Behaviour, Uniform and Student Planners**

At St John's we continue to work hard on raising standards of achievement, but also on constantly raising our expectations of how students behave and how well they are dressed in the uniform of the school. Details of our expectations can be found in your child's **Student Planner**.

I would ask parents and carers to regularly check their child's Student Planner, sign the Home School Agreement included within it, and sign the relevant page on a weekly basis to confirm you are satisfied that homework has been set and completed to a good standard by your child. If you have any concerns, we always welcome comments, which can be written in the Planner, addressed to your child's Form Tutor in the first instance.

### **Health & Safety**

In the interests of Health & Safety and to reduce the risk to children and adults on the school site, parents/carers are requested **not** to drive into school to drop off or pick up students before or after school.

The nature of the site and the roads around the school aligned to the arrival and departure of school buses increases the risk if we allow other traffic onto the site at these key times. With this in mind, can I please ask you all to be mindful of the parking restrictions outside school on Tower Road, and to drop your children a little further away for them to walk safely into the school site.

Parents/carers collecting children at other times or who have appointments with staff are still permitted to drive onto the site, although I would again request that you avoid doing so between **8.20 and 8.30am and 3.00 and 3.10pm**.



## **PLEASE NOTE SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September . Year 10 Standards & Expectations Evening . 7.00pm

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September . Year 11 Assessment Week

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September . Year 11 Standards & Expectations Evening . 7.00pm

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September . Year 10 RE Retreat

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September . Open Evening . 5.30pm . 8.30pm

**(Early school closure – 1.15pm)**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September . Open Morning . 8.50am . 11.00am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September . Open Morning . 8.50am . 11.00am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September . Year 9 Standards Evening

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October . Year 9 Assessment Week

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October . Year 8 Standards & Expectations Evening . 7.00pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October . Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening . 7.00pm

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October . SLT Parents/Carers Clinic . 3.30pm . 4.30pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October . Year 7 Achievement Evening

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term Break**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November . School Closed . Staff Training

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November . Year 7 Assessment Week (English, Maths, Science & ICT)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November . Academic Review Day (all Years) . 8.30am . 5.00pm

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November . Year 8 Assessment Week

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November . Careers Convention

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November . GCSE Awards and Presentation Evening . 7.00pm

**(Date to be confirmed)**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November . Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December . Charity Tea Party 3.15pm . 4.15pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December . SLT Parents/Carers Clinic . 3.30pm . 4.30pm

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December . Christmas Concert . 7.00pm . 9.00pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December . Last day of term . School ends at 12.15pm