

# ST PETER'S SCHOOL

An Academy of



**HEADTEACHER: CHRISTOPHER BENNET**  
BSc (Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL  
Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching.



St Peter's Road, Huntingdon,  
Cambs, PE29 7DD  
Tel: 01480 459581  
office@stpetershuntingdon.org  
www.stpetershuntingdon.org

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Dear parents/carers,

We are drawing to the end of our third half term. I keep writing to you expressing my thanks for your support. Without this and the good will of staff we would, to be blunt, not have kept St Peter's School open to all students every day this half term. Yes, there has been significant disruption to timetables with students losing more learning time due to their own and their teachers' absence. But, the resilience of our students has been shown, especially our older students who commence their examinations in about 13 school weeks (remembering this week is week 20!). I know our responses to the emerging issues have not been ideal, but it has become more successful as staff have learnt how to adapt their working routines to only discharge their and others essential duties.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the developments here at St Peter's School.

## News

We are now updating almost daily the latest news, which is on the front page of our website, and our Facebook page:

<https://www.stpetershuntingdon.org/news/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersSchoolHuntingdon>

St Peter's School is busy – as I write this there are five external organisations working in school with our students and twelve separate events on site. A busy but 'normal' day. These events cover such issues as apprenticeships for year 11 and post 16, Breakfast Club, a support programme for vulnerable students and raising the issue of testicular cancer with Year 12/13 students.

## Parent survey

Communicating more details regarding what students are learning came through strongly as an issue to address. Teaching staff will endeavour to send more information home about topics/ specifications that will be studied. Already, we have started to produce letters for parents/students regarding attainment at set assessment points in the year. Whilst a written report is not produced, the student's target and projected grade are noted. Please remember a student's target grade does not change from year to year. The projected grade can be interpreted as 'currently projected' i.e. a student's current grade. I appreciate the difference in wording can confuse, but I find using the phrase throughout a student's career at St Peter's School creates less confusion for students.



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## **Out of Lesson Routines**

As we emerge further from the impact of the pandemic, we need to reinforce our standards which we have been understandably more flexible with. But I recognise that out of lesson behaviour choices impact on the student's attitude towards learning within the classroom. Now that we are able to reinstate assemblies / alter lunchtime arrangements, it is appropriate to reinforce our out of lesson routines.

### **Start of school**

Students are expected to be in lessons by 8.30a.m. with the school gates being closed by 8.35a.m. Students who are late to school, without a valid reason, will be sanctioned with a detention. With over 1200 students, several are late every day due to unforeseen circumstances; please contact Reception ([Reception@stpetershuntingdon.org](mailto:Reception@stpetershuntingdon.org)) to inform us of why your child is late and why a sanction would be inappropriate.

### **End of school**

Can I please ask those parents who drop their children off by car not to do so in our car park, which is small and becomes congested quickly. It is disappointing to have to talk to parents about their poor behaviour choices in the car park. Please park responsibly away from the school site.

### **Uniform**

We will continue to ask students to wear PE kit on those days that they have PE. This decreases the disruption to the start of PE lessons, decreases time wasted looking for lost kit and increases learning time and students' engagement in physical activity. Though some students do take advantage of this flexibility to wear grey joggers, black leggings (students are to wear the PE trousers instead.) Added to this email are slides showing what our uniform looks like. It does not include:

- white trainers (students if need be, can easily change into these for PE)
- white socks

We will be conducting formal uniform inspections twice a week for all students from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. I know that our students can wear their uniform correctly; there were only three Year 11 students who did not have their correct uniform for their year group photograph last week – they all looked amazing! In extreme cases parents will be asked to support the school by bringing in identified articles of uniform.

### **Bike sheds**

Some students have been leaving their bikes outside of the swimming pool/sports centre. Due to the increasing number of students cycling to school, another bike shed on the swimming pool side of the school is being built.

### **Lunchtime**

The arrangements within our canteen have provoked many comments from students, parents and staff. Finally, by working with the catering contractors, who have invested in more staff and resources, we will be able to change the arrangements to allow all students to have lunch at lunchtime. We will alter our internal timings to give all students enough time to eat, continuing to alter the timings if required. All three serving venues will be open at break (for snacks) and lunch for hot/cold food and snacks.

This change will allow us to lengthen Tutor time by ten minutes facilitating more meaningful activities and allowing assemblies to take place.

### **Staffing**

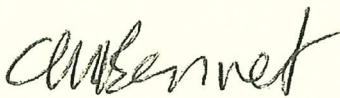
This September we are looking forward to welcoming more students into Year 7 than there are in Year 11. This represents another year of growth for St Peter's School. Already, we have employed more teaching staff to deliver the required number of lessons and to allow us to create more classes in those year groups which have grown in number during the current year. Currently, we are considering the additions needed to our pastoral team to support this increase in student numbers. Personally, I am determined that no matter the changes we experience, no matter how many students attend St Peter's School, we will give our students the support they need to become the successful adults of the future.

### **Parents evenings**

Last Tuesday we held the Year 13 parents evening, the attendance of which was above pre covid levels, with parents stating the opportunity to attend either online or in person supported their attendance. Therefore, we will again trial parents evenings being a mixture of both online and in-person.

Have a safe break with your family and friends.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Bennet', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Bennet  
Head Teacher