



**HEADTEACHER: CHRISTOPHER BENNET**  
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Dear parents/carers,

We are rapidly approaching the end of our fifth half term, preparing for the last one of the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of further updates as we continue to strive to provide the best educational opportunities supporting our young people to become the successful adults of the future.

### **Learning beyond the classroom**

Without fail, when I ask students what their most memorable experience has been from their school career, it is about what they have done - a particular trip, Duke of Edinburgh award, National Citizen Service for example. This highlights the importance of giving students learning opportunities outside of the classroom, hence we can 'see' the impact of the negative experiences suffered by students during the pandemic through the comments they make about their schooling. As the Covid restrictions were lifted, staff have spent a great deal of time arranging events covering:

- Financial management
- Healthy lifestyles
- Cultural awareness
- Personal safety (water, driving, on-line etc.)

Such events form a significant part of our Personal Development programme which can be seen here (<https://www.stpetershuntingdon.org/curriculum/personal-development.php>) This aspect of education is really important as it is not just about English, Maths or even Physics, it is about educating the whole person. To support achieving this aim, various events are available to students including, Year 7 being given the opportunity to participate in a camping event at St Peter's School which promises to be a new experience for many students.

### **Parent panel**

The next meeting of this group is in September. I really do value working with this group whose ideas/support has been invaluable in bringing about changes at St Peter's School. For example, a future discussion point will be 'Behaviours' – this is about what behaviours we expect of students, staff and parents. Such discussions will inform some changes, which are required to bring about further improvement here at St Peter's, for example, to our home/school agreement.

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## **Parking**

I have been asked by several local landowners e.g. Wickes/HYC to contact parents regarding them parking on private land at the end of school. Can I please ask parents to consider parking a little way from the school which will ease the congestion at busy times? This is notable, as next year, we are potentially accepting an additional 100 students to St Peter's School, which will bring an obvious increase in the number of parents collecting their child by car at the end of the day.

## **Uniform**

At times (between rain showers) the temperature is increasing. Please note that from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, and for the remainder of this academic year, students will be able to wear PE kit every day, which will help them to keep cool during the (hopefully) warmer weather.

We have had discussions with Parent Panel members and the Student Council about uniform with the following points discussed:

- Blazers for all students – this is an expensive uniform item which will not be adopted. Our uniform is about half of the cost of other local schools (<https://www.stpetershuntingdon.org/parents-carers-students/uniform>) The only students who will be required to wear a blazer, shirt and tie are the Year 10/11 Student Leaders who are appointed by the Post 16 Student Leaders.
- Coats to remain a dark colour
- Skorts – we are investigating whether our uniform supplier can provide a suitable uniform item.

## **Hoodies**

As a means to recognise students who have a leadership position in the school the appropriate students will be awarded a school hoodie. These will be of different colours to distinguish the different roles, for example the hoodies for the Year 9 Sport Leaders have now been distributed. These hoodies can be recognised by the St Peter's School logo on the front and can be worn at school but not in lessons.

I am looking forward to rewarding other students for their willingness to take on leadership positions such as Duke of Edinburgh and Librarians.

## **Sexual harassment and abuse**

Attached is a poster which is displayed throughout the school, highlighting that such behaviours are obviously abhorrent. Such behaviours have a significant negative impact on the victims, and we must do all we can to educate our students that such behaviours are totally unacceptable. Currently, a group of trained (and qualified as the students have been externally examined) Year 12 students are working with tutor groups to discuss issues around inappropriate language, healthy relationships and where they can access further support; the students are also available to talk to younger students at break and lunch times. Already, a number of students have shared some very unpleasant life experiences and we have been able, with the help of external agencies to provide them with the appropriate professional support.

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## **Attendance**

Our school attendance target is 96%. This would mean, over an academic year a student missing 9 days of school. We know from our own experience and from wider research that there is a clear link between both attendance and attainment in exams as well as happiness and confidence in school.

If you want to talk about how we can support your child with their attendance please contact their student support manager.

## **The future**

I am looking forward to informing you next half term of how we are spending over £250,000 to improve our facilities, broaden our curriculum offer and alter our working arrangements as we support our young people to become the successful adults of the future.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Bennet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mr C Bennet  
Head Teacher