

Dear Parent/Carer

As we now reach the end of term I wanted to send you the newsletter and also make you aware of a few things ready for September.

Leavers

It is always sad at the end of a year to say farewell to staff that are moving on to pastures new. This year we say good bye to Miss Mash (support), Mrs Thomas (Science), Mrs Cheasley (Business Studies), Mr Brown (site staff), Mrs Wilson (Maths), Mr Keely (PE), Mr Smith (Science) and Mrs Hollands-Smith (Transition). We wish them the very best for the future.

Results Days

The results days this year are:

Thursday 16th August from 10am for A levels

Thursday 23rd August from 10am for GCSEs

Information is also available on the website

School Catering

A new company has been selected to provide the school's catering – Caterlink. They were the stand out company for all those involved in their selection, including students and we are very excited about their ideas for Shaftesbury School. There will be communication over the next few weeks regarding their cashless system. Please do look out for this so everything is ready for September.

House Names

We have spent some of this year re-looking at our House system and based on student voice, we have renamed our houses. They are now:

Gold (Owens)

Duncliffe (Thompson)

Hambledon (Sanderson)

Melbury (Redgrave)

We want all students to be able to learn in a safe and stimulating environment. One in which standards are high and there is an ethos of success. The house system ensures that we celebrate students as much as possible. This may be through house points which lead to specific rewards that students have identified, celebration assemblies where we highlight particular students, letters and emails home to share their successes with you and through competition prizes.

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Expectations

We also have a series of classroom expectations that we share with students and parents. A series of positive strategies to ensure we can become the best we can be.

1. Arrive on time

All students are expected to be at their lesson on time. Punctuality is important, at school and beyond. If a child is late for a lesson, there should be an appropriate reason. All students are expected to maintain a minimum of 96% attendance. Please be aware that the government definition of a persistent absentee relates to attendance that falls below 90%. Any attendance below 92% will be referred to attendance services. Following amendments to the Education Regulations which came into effect from 1st September 2013, fixed penalty fines will be issued to any parent who takes their child out of school unless the Principal has authorised this.

2. Respect others

Staff and students should treat each other in a respectful manner. This includes, but is not limited to, greeting each other at the beginning of the lesson, using appropriate language and being well-mannered.

3. Expect to learn

When the lesson has begun, a student's expectation is that they will make progress with their learning. This includes engaging with the work, asking questions if they need help and attempting every task set.

4. Be smart in your appearance

We have a clear uniform policy at Shaftesbury School and students are expected to meet it. Teachers and form tutors will check uniform as students enter and leave their classrooms. Pupils' shirts must be tucked in at all times. Skirts must be worn at the correct length and not rolled up. Coats must be removed before students enter the school building. Students must wear formal, black leather shoes, as they would with a suit. Trainer or trainer style shoes are not allowed except for use in Physical Education.

5. Be prepared for the lesson

Every student must have a fully equipped pencil case to include pens, pencils, a protractor, a scientific calculator, a ruler and any other useful equipment requested by their teachers. Students need this every day and it will be checked regularly. Departments do hold some spare equipment which can be loaned for the lesson but this is the exception rather than the rule.

6. Phones turned off in your bag

Students are permitted to have mobile telephones on their way to and from school. All such possessions are brought to school "at owner's risk"; valuable items should be left at home. Once on the school site, they must be turned off and in their bag for the entire day, including break and lunch.

Mobile telephones will be confiscated if they are visible. It is not acceptable for students to charge their mobile telephones during lessons. As with other personal devices, mobile telephones that have been confiscated will be handed to Student Reception and returned at the end of the school day. If a student needs to contact home, or vice versa, main reception, student reception and/or the appropriate house leader can support. This is especially important now that there are very strict data protection rules that mean it is illegal to video or record others without their express, written permission.

7. Challenge yourself and aim high

We want all students to achieve their very best and staff are tasked with ensuring that lessons provide challenge. In lessons this means that a student will need to develop resilience and not 'give up' if the task is difficult. We are here to support and guide and help, but a student must also have a positive mind-set.

8. Take responsibility for your behaviour

All students are required to meet the school's behaviour expectations as set out above, all staff are aware of their responsibility to support and challenge students to this end. Students have a right to learn and those that disrupt others or who are not meeting expectations will receive a warning. Should their behaviour fail to improve they will be removed from the lesson and placed into isolation for the lesson or the remainder of the day, depending on the incident.

The most effective way of working is working together and we will do everything in our power to support and guide your child academically as they go through the school. We ask that you support us as much as possible by ensuring that the above is discussed with your child and that you understand how important the above is in maintaining high standards.

May I wish you a very happy summer and I look forward to working with you in September.

Tim Farrer
Principal