



Dear Parents/Carers,

2020/21 Reflection

The current pandemic has taught us to be grateful for those small mercies God has given us. When we look back on this academic year, I cannot believe how much our young people have achieved, with your support and the staff, to still make so much academic and personal progress. The way that we all pulled together in lockdown, switching to remote learning – the sacrifices made to make that work – was incredible. We averaged over 4 hours of digital learning each day, a remarkable statistic given we had only just switched to Microsoft Teams in the Autumn Term. I am most grateful to all the staff for upskilling so rapidly and provided such amazing support for learners at home.

As a school we have worked very hard on staying disciplined with the health and safety. I would also like to thank the students for supporting themselves and others to stay safe. Sadly, a few students contracted COVID this term, which meant that other students had to isolate. Compared to other local schools, however, we have fared very well – never having to send a 'bubble' home.

Staffing

Sadly we say a fond farewell to some of our staff:

- Mr Moulding – Attendance Officer
- Mrs Wright – Specialist Teaching Assistant
- Mr Blackwell – Teaching Assistant
- Miss Green – Remote Learning teaching Assistant
- Miss Cloud – Behaviour Support Worker
- Mr Tournay-Godfrey – Head of Business Studies
- Mrs Broxton – Head of Computer Science and Business
- Mr Nichols – Teacher of Religious Education
- Mr Pattinson – Head of Science

We must pay special tribute to Mr Pattinson, who joined the school in 1985! Thank you for leading the science department, for being a lead practitioner across Suffolk schools, as well as the many trips and visits that you led across the globe, enriching the lives and experiences of our young people – something we know you are very proud of. Every blessing as you enter the next phase of your life in a new career.

Congratulations to Mrs Codd who takes over as Head of Science in September.

We are pleased to announce new joiners/roles too!

- Mr Toombs – Teacher of Geography
- Mr Donohue – Head of Faculty for Business Studies and Computer Science
- Mr Connell-Smith – Subject Development Leader (Science)
- Mr Hicks – Teacher of Religious Education & new Head of Year 10
- Mr Kelly – Teacher of English

- Mrs Reeve – Teacher of Religious Education
- Mrs Bikritski – Foundation learning Support
- Mrs Norton - Specialist TA Speech and Language Intervention Lead
- Mrs Yellop - Specialist TA Social Communications and Interactions Lead
- Mrs Kay – Teaching Assistant

Looking forward to pressing RESET in September:

We very much hope and pray that we are in a position for things to return to some normality. The government have instructed us to once again complete lateral flow tests before we return students to class. This has already been sent to you yesterday – along with the relevant consent forms.

The school day

We will begin September with a structure we have used post-lockdown, and review this next term. This is because of rising rates of infection currently, and the confidence in our current response to deal with this. *Following the testing days*, Year 7 and Sixth Form start on 2 Sept, Years 8-11 on 6 September.

09:00 - 09:20	Registration/Assemblies
09:30 - 10:35	Period 1
10:35 - 10:55	Break
10:55 - 12:00	Period 2
12:10 - 13:15	Period 3
13:15 - 14:05	Lunch
14:05 - 15:10	Period 4

Uniform

As you know, we strive for excellence in our uniform – what we call ‘Door-to-door pride’. The full details can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=37>

This hopefully avoids difficult conversations in September! If you are unsure, please contact the school using general@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk over the summer.

Mobile Phones

Since the lockdown, students seemed to have grown too attached to their devices! Can we be clear that for safeguarding and learning reasons we still allow mobile phones in school – but with very clear boundaries. Once on site, they should be switched off. The exception is when they are directed by a member of staff to use them as a learning tool, or when they may need them at the end of the day to use as a digital bus pass.

To enforce this, staff will use a simple rule:

“If it is seen – it is handed over”

On the first occasion, students will be able to collect the phone at 3:15pm on the same day from the office. This will be logged and a second offence will mean a phone call home for a parent/carer to collect the phone at their discretion.

Equipment

Can we please ensure that students return in September prepared to learn. We will be checking for the correct equipment in form times.

As a minimum, this is

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator

Other mathematical equipment, such as a protractor, pair of compasses etc are very useful.

Safeguarding support over the holiday:

If you have a concern regarding Mental Health or Emotional Wellbeing, please see helpful tools and signposting information on the **student support section** of the school website.

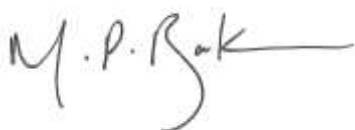
If you have a concern regarding the Safety of a Child or Young Person, please contact **Customer First** on 0808 800 4005.

In an emergency, always dial 999.

And finally...

Enjoy a well-earned break. Take care of yourselves. Thank God for all we have.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer of fun,



Mr Baker



Headteacher: Matt Baker

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