

19th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's hard to believe that we've already reached the end of the first half term this year, it's gone so quickly. We have managed to cram an awful lot in as usual, see below for a flavour of some of the events that have taken place since we returned in September;

- Year 12 Induction Day
- Year 6 Open Evening
- Year 11 Careers Day
- Founders' Day
- Year 11 Mock Exams
- Year 7 Tutor Evening
- Art and Photography Exhibition
- Round Square International Conference in Kenya
- Barcelona Trip
- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Burbage Brook Geography Trip
- Plus a variety of sporting fixtures

Please refer to the calendar on our [website](#) for future events and lots of other useful information. You will also find lots of great updates on our social media pages too.

We said goodbye to the staggered school day and returned to a single start and finish time. This has been working really well and as a result we have been able to reintroduce break time and tutor time, both of which students are really benefitting from. The change to the day also means we can continue to expand the wider curriculum offer after school. Thank you for your support in making these changes happen as smoothly as possible.

Attendance

We strive for excellent attendance at Samworth Church Academy and are keen to support all our students in accessing their education. Good school attendance is vital, not only to a child's education but to their personal development. A child with 95% attendance has missed 50 hours of learning, and typically achieves lower grades at GCSE. Children who are not in school are more vulnerable and more likely to be drawn into crime. We understand that it is not always easy, or possible to get your child into school. Do not hesitate to contact our Attendance Team on 01623 663455 should you need any support.

Behaviour

As you know, at the end of the summer term we introduced and trialled a new behaviour system. We listened to feedback from students and parents and as a result one of the main principles of the new system is that students complete any sanction given to them the next day, reflecting on our value of forgiveness. This allows them to start afresh without accumulating several days, sometimes weeks of detentions which the previous system allowed.

The Behaviour Policy is currently being rewritten to reflect the recent changes and once ratified by our governors this will be published on our website. In the meantime, here is a little more information to help you understand how the new system works.

The new behaviour system is automated and uses the total of any negative points given to a student each day to issue a sanction (see attached document for more detail). The table below provides details about the levels of sanction that can be issued, and this will always start with an after school detention to reduce the time a student misses in lessons.

Staff will always encourage students to make the right choices, but as we know this isn't always taken on board and they will make mistakes. To help students complete their sanction, staff who teach them during the last lesson of the day will try to escort them to their detention to try and prevent the sanction being escalated. If a student fails to attend through illness or absence from school, this will result in the sanction being rescheduled for the next day they are in school. If a student refuses to attend, this will result in a stage 3 isolation.

We are currently canvassing student opinion through student voice as to how they would like to be rewarded for positive points at the end of each term

Daily Points Total	Results	Notes
-1 points up to - 6 points	15 minutes to 90 minutes detention	Each negative point = 15 minutes detention
-7	90 minute detention +isolation stage 1	9am until after break
-8	90 minute detention +isolation stage 2	9am until after lunch
-9	90 minute detention +isolation stage 3	9am until the end of the day

MyChildAtSchool – MCAS App

Thank you to those of you who have already downloaded and are using the new parent app. If you haven't managed to do this yet, we urge you to do this as soon as possible. The app will provide you with information about your child and notifications which will reduce the number of emails you receive in your inbox. We have experienced some teething issues which is to be expected with any new system and we'd like to thank you for your patience, understanding and feedback which is helping us to address these and continue to improve the way we communicate with you. As always, we are open to feedback and if you do experience any problems we have a dedicated email for you to get in touch with us - bromcom@tscacademy.org.uk.

We have identified that a common query is about how you can see the reason for a detention. You can access this information on MCAS by selecting the 'behaviour' tab from the menu and then selecting the date to view comments that have been added by staff.

Message from our Chaplain

We are well into the start of this academic year, we have celebrated some fantastic results in our GCSE's and A levels (our best yet) respectively and we have welcomed our new cohort of year 7 students who are an amazing group of young people.



In this half term we have been focusing one of our Academy values, the value of positivity. There are many figures in the bible you can look to for an example of positivity, the one I am sometimes drawn to is not always at the top of that list. Job was a man who had everything stripped away from him in very quick succession, he lost his possessions, his livelihood, and even his children. Despite the terrible tragedies faced by Job he remained loyal to his God, in the face of all adversity he remained sure that his God had everything in control. What I really like about the book of Job is that it doesn't shy away from the difficult questions, Job sometimes speaks with great bitterness and even sarcasm (he was only human after all). Being positive is not about burying our head in the sand, but about facing the reality of a situation and doing everything we can to overcome it.

My prayer for our students, parents and staff is that whether things are going well or we are facing some difficulties, we will have the strength to face the reality with a positive and forward-looking mind-set.

Philippians 4:6 says "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God*".

We look forward to seeing all our students after the break on Monday 6th November.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh
Principal