



**Principal's Newsletter**  
**Issue 9 - June 2018**

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the June Principal's newsletter for parents and carers. This will be the final newsletter of the academic year in this format. In July we will publish our annual bumper edition which reviews highlights of the whole year.

**Leavers**

This past month we have said goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers. Year 11s went out with a bang at their fantastically glamorous and sophisticated prom held at Rufford Park Golf Club and Year 13 had a leavers' assembly and BBQ at the academy and also a meal at Il Rosso in Mansfield. We are very proud of the students and how they approached their studies and exams and are very much looking forward to celebrating with them on the results days in August. Many of our Year 11s will return to us in September but we would like to wish all students in those years groups a fond farewell and all our prayers and best wishes for the future.

**Year 8 Graduation**

This week our Year 8 students who have successfully graduated into Year 9 will attend a Graduation Service at St Alban's Church followed by a celebratory disco at the academy in the evening. They will then start their new qualifications in Year 9 when our new timetable starts on 16<sup>th</sup> July. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Year 8 students who have successfully graduated this year. Well done!

**Trips and Visits**

There are a range of trips and visits to report on this month. In particular, our Year 7 residential took place in June at the Bushcraft Camp and Cholmondeley Castle where students took part in activities such as archery, skinning rabbits, nature trails, bake offs, Bushcraft has got talent and much more. Currently we have a group of 41 performing arts students on tour around Lake Garda in Italy. We are also busy planning for next year and always looking to improve what we do so please contact the academy in the usual way if you have any suggestions or ideas.

**Sports Day**

With Wimbledon and the FIFA World Cup in full flow, and our fantastic Sports Awards Evening taking place last week, our annual Sports Day is perfectly timed! The event is taking place on site this year with the aim of 100% participation for all students and a wide range of events available for them to take part in.

**Values Week**

Next week there will be a range of different activities taking place within school to once again emphasise and highlight our key Christian Values (Positivity, Respect, Forgiveness, Service and Vocation) as well as remind ourselves of the Round Square IDEALS that we subscribe to (Internationalism, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service). There will be different activities within lessons, whole year group events to explore a range of issues and our annual MAD Day helping the forest rangers with their work at Garibaldi Wood nearby.

**Attendance**

As our staff and students look forward to the summer break, we must also look ahead to the new academic year and use this opportunity to remind parents of the requirements surrounding attendance and absence from school.

- Parents of every child of compulsory school age are required by law to ensure their child attends school. Failure of a parent to ensure the regular attendance of their child can lead to penalty notice or prosecution.



- The Samworth Church Academy does not authorise any holidays outside of the 13 weeks school holidays and will refer parents to the local authority for penalty if their child is not a regular attender and takes holiday outside of the 13 weeks.
- In cases of recurring absence, the academy has the right to request medical evidence and decline to authorise the absence until evidence is seen.
- Parents are advised that 3 days unauthorised absence over a 6 week period can lead to penalty or prosecution.

In short, we would like, and urge, all students to attend school wherever reasonable and possible to avoid missing learning and missing out on the opportunities that we can provide in our aim to support all students to be the best they can be. If you have any worries about attendance please contact the academy and we will do all we can to help you support your child.

### Key dates this half term

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 8 Graduation
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Sixth Form Taster Day
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Induction Days
9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Values Week including MAD Day
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Start of new timetable
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports available via Parent Portal
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Final day of term with a <b>2.30pm</b> finish

Please refer to our calendar on the website for further dates.

### And finally...

#### Thought for the month – from Alex our Chaplain

Over the last academic year in the academy we have spent each half term looking at each one of our Christian values (Positivity, Respect, Forgiveness, Service and Vocation). This has given students and staff the opportunity to explore in more detail what it means not only to know these values, but how to live them both in and out of the academy.

While away recently in Cholmondeley with our Year 7 students, I was reminded of the importance of one of these values. Respect, shown in three different ways; respect for yourself, for others and for your environment and surroundings. These are the key to living out all of the values. It is much easier to forgive from a place of respect, it is also easier to serve from a position of mutual respect.

One of the easiest ways to show respect is to listen. Have you ever heard somebody claim a dislike for someone that listens too much? Taking notice in what is happening around us and in our communities means we can be active and engaged participants. The summer holiday is just around the corner and may just provide the right opportunities to talk less and listen more.

James 1:9 puts it this way *"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"*.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh  
Principal