



End of Term Update from TSLA

Dear Parent/ Carer,

It has been a fantastic term at St Leonards. In this update's a summary of the some of the fantastic achievements of our students. Thank you for all your support.

Thank you to the parents who responded to our survey. At the time of writing the government has delayed the introduction of the 32.5 hrs a week rule for schools. I will update you regarding proposals.

Students have responded really well to increasingly high expectation at the Academy. **The start of term in September** has been designed so that all students have time to prepare for expectations around lessons, work in books, movement around the academy.

**1<sup>st</sup> September – Inset day**

**4<sup>th</sup> September – Inset day**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September –**

**Year 7 arrive at 8.40 for an 8.50 start: they will be told where to go when they arrive they will have a full day at school**

**Year 11: arrive at 10am: they will be told where to go when they arrive and will have a full day at school.**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 8, 9 and 10 arrive at normal time and go to tutors and will have a full day**

**Year 7 and 11 arrive at 11am for break and will be in school for the rest of the day**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**All at school as normal**

In response to student voice we will have new arrangements for lunch and break to allow more access to inside space. We will write at the start of the year about this and rules around phones. There were some great responses to our survey on this which I will also share in September. 75% of those surveyed were in favour of the extension of the ban in phones. The main concern from others was that students would not be allowed to bring their phones at all.

Phones should be in bags and not visible. If students need to use phones in an emergency then can go to year team office Students working with the safeguarding team can go there /Students working with the SEN team can go to the COVE

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all for an exciting year in September.

Mr J Francies

Principal

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## Speak out public speaking competition



"Two students, Jasmine Barham and Malcolm Benson-Rowe, from the St Leonards Academy took part in the regional final of the Speak Out competition on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Our students were faced with tough competition but they both still walked up to the stage confidently and shared with the world their thoughts and feelings on topics that were important to them.

Jasmine, whose speech entitled 'One World, One Conversation, One Word' spoke about feminism and the importance of standing up, said 'the whole experience was something I didn't think I would be able to do' and added that she 'even made some great friends'. Coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the regional final, Malcolm, whose speech entitled 'It Is Your Friend' focused on the resilience and support gained from sports and sports teams, said 'It was an amazing experience that helped me learn and develop new skills that I am very grateful for'.

## Performing Arts @TSLA

You may be aware that St Leonard's has a real strength in The Performing Arts.

With our students going to achieve amazing things. Well done to Maddison **Townend**. In her recent audition for the Christmas pantomime at the White Rock Theatre in Hastings. We are extremely proud to confirm Maddison was successful in her audition from 60+ applicants and has been awarded a position in the pantomime Cinderella



Two of our Dance students Eliss Barnes and Gracie-Lou Funnell have been accepted at the Trinity Laban - Centre for Advanced Training (CAT). They are the only students from Hastings to be successful at audition to have professional training weekly at the prestigious Laban Centre

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**Joe Hempsall** as well as being a TSLA star has got into the prestigious BRIT performing art School. According to the BRIT school website, students who live outside the area of London, Surrey and Kent must show “unusual merit” to be given a place, and in the course a maximum of 10% of students who live outside the catchment area are given a place.



Joe says ‘*Since Year Seven, my passion for the performing arts has been allowed to flourish at the St Leonards Academy, through an inclusive extra-curricular drama club and amazing lessons taught by some of the most encouraging and supportive teachers I know. I believe this school gives students the tools to shape their future into whatever they want it to be.*



**Darcy Jacobs** – Darcy has been successfully professionally acting for some time now and has also launched a singing career. She was also one of a group of students who helped West St Leonards Primary with their school production

## **Complicité**

*2023/24 – we are delighted to say that we will be working with The internationally renowned theatre company. Great opportunities for our students*

### **UKMT Junior Maths Challenge**

20 of our students achieved a certificate to recognize their achievements in this national challenge. Three of our students got 70% + and received a silver medal. These were **Kartal Geyik, Awab Adam and Karlie Tubb**. I am delighted to say that one of our students **Jasper Wallis** got a gold certificate achieving 96% putting him in the top 2% in the country

### **Maths Update from Mr Toogood**

In Term 6, the Maths team launched **Sparx** our new **homework** platform to Years 9 & 10 as an early trial before a whole school rollout in September. The Maths team would like to say a massive thank you for your support in our initial launch and we are pleased to say that we have already had some wonderful successes.

Homework is a well-researched area that is proven to make huge amounts of progress when completed regularly, and we have already seen thousands of hours of personalised learning take place outside of lessons in the first few weeks

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of this launch. Students are being rewarded weekly for their self-discipline and are receiving regular praise in lessons, with special recognition going to those who are going above and beyond on tasks or completing additional independent learning!

Sparx gives teachers. Students who begin the work earlier will receive extra support with their homework when their teacher feedbacks to the class and plans activities to address gaps in knowledge.

Sparx will become a large part of our Maths Strategy into the new academic year where we will see a roll out to the remaining year groups and an increase in the size of our homework support club. We thank you again for your support on this important project!

### Science Crest Awards

Our students have been working towards this prestigious national award. Year 8 completed their presentations and assessments this week. Well done to all involved!

The CREST Awards scheme is **the British Science Association's flagship programme for young people**, providing science enrichment activities to inspire and engage 5-to-19-year olds. It is the only nationally recognised accreditation scheme for project work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.



2023/24: All our key students will have access to Science and Engineering workshops with a world famous Formula 1 team! Watch this space



### Library Update

Work has now nearly finished on the refurbished Library. It will reopen for students in September

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## Creative Café Careers Event



Year 8 students enjoyed meeting and talking with employers about their careers at a Creative Cafe organised by Culture Shift. The Professionals were from Vincent Dance Theatre, CranrustVFX (2D/3D Animation, video and photography), NHS, Focus SB, General Dynamics, Woodsy (Rapper), a Rugby Coach, a Dancer/Actor, a Musician, A & I Media, Energise Sussex Coast and Hastings Common. They had tasks to do set by the employers, then moved around to interact with different employers. The students were very engaged with their Professionals and learnt about local career choices. Both Professionals and students had a great time!



## Duke of Edinburgh Award @TSLA



We are so proud of all the students who have been working towards this since we introduced this to TSLA last year. The expeditions were a real success! The new year 9 will have the opportunity to get involved next year

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## Green Team @TSLA

We have an amazing group of students passionate about green issues. This term they have had a meeting with the ESCC children's services dept, who are working on creating a Climate charter for all schools in the county. The council were so impressed by our students that they would like to invite them to their Climate Summit event where they will represent the amazing work achieved thus far at SLA. They are also in the process of creating a wildflower meadow on the bank by the field, this will be to help the bees and other wildlife around the area. We have been gifted wildflower seed.

## GCSE Students



We are so proud of our year 11! They had a fantastic prom and leaver's assembly. They worked so well staying in lessons until right until the end of the exam season. We are going to run a certificates evening for them in the new school year – watch out for details. Year 10 were great in their mock exams and we look forward to interviewing them to plan for a successful year 11

## Sport@TSLA

We have a great tradition of sporting success at TSLA. Well done to the 33 students who went to experience training at Hastings Athletic Club. We have a unique sports academy ( boys and girls) at KS3 and we are delighted that we have been awarded The School Games Gold Award in recognition of the great opportunities for our students.



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