

Start of Term January 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome back to a new term. There are a lot of exciting developments at the Academy. Thank you for all your support last week and despite the disruption the students have come back brilliantly and learning in lessons has been fantastic.

Thank you to all those that attended the Year 11 parents evening it was really positive evening. We are so proud of the year group. Their hard work means that they are on track for a fantastic set of results that would make St Leonards one of the most improved schools in the country!

Attendance is key to student success. Working together attendance has continued to improve across the academy. It is still a big area of focus for us and for all schools nationally. Next week we are launching our **January Attendance Challenge**. This will run from week to week in January from Tuesday to Tuesday. Students with 100% attendance during that week will be invited to a period 5 pizza reward. This will reset every week. With increased rewards for students who accumulate more 100% weeks. We will update next week.

We are delighted to say that we have seen a massive increase in first choices to the Academy for next year. A huge 45% increase. The Academy will be full next year. Thank you to the 100 parents who completed our Year 7 survey last term. All bar one respondent felt able to recommend the school and all felt safe and happy. We were able to follow up some individual issues through these and please if you do have any concerns then do contact us and we will follow up. We have just completed a Year 11 parent's survey and will share the results of both with you on the website.

In what was a busy term for student success, St Leonards also received our Character Education Kitemark. This has been a two year process and finished with a rigorous day of inspection at the academy visiting lessons and interviewing staff and students. This is a great achievement and reflects our commitment to developing those all-important character traits. This has resulted in a record number of class chart rewards given out. It is also shown in a big increase in students taking part in enrichment activities. We are proud of the opportunities that students have. I will highlight one area where our amazing Year 11 student leaders led Duke of Edinburgh Award Assemblies for our students. This has been a great success story and through their hard work saw 123 students sign up!

Reward letters for excellent work in books (Pride Stickers) have been going out for Years 7, 8 and 9 and good progress letters for Year 10 and 11. We are also just about to send out 100s of exemplary behaviour letters from last term. We have been piloting some online approaches to homework at KS3 and will update you later in the term about next steps.

These are exciting times for TSLA as increased funding for us means we will be recruiting more staff to support students, provide smaller group sizes and greatly reduce the need for cover.

Finally, can I remind you of uniform expectations with a focus on wearing blazers. Please let us know of any issues as we have a large store of spare uniform to support.

Thank you for all your support

Mr J Francies



Inspiring our children and staff to flourish and achieve their best

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