



Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome Back 2026

A Happy New Year to all our community. It has been a great first week of 2026 at St Leonards Academy.

This week has seen great work from our students.

Year 11 have had a visiting performance of A Christmas Carol to support their exam preparation. Year 11 have been amazing and working so hard. They are set to achieve the best results in the school's history.

Year 10 have had their work experience assembly as they prepare to gain understanding of the world of work.

Year 9 had an amazing careers assembly and workshops with the dare to dream foundation.

A group of year 7 and 8 students have started work on the Brilliant Club Scholars programme. They are working with a PHD University tutor on research and analysis skills. In addition, we are seeing a huge take up clubs and enrichment. Our offer this term has activities every day.

We have had a team in from Mulberry this week in lessons and around school with students. This is showing us that students are learning and remembering in lessons. Mulberry continue to be so impressed by our students! We also asked the local authority to review how the Academy tackles bullying and 'banter' (derogatory language) I am pleased to say that they thought our approach and practice was excellent.

A massive thank you for all for our joint work with attendance. We are the most improved school in East Sussex for reducing persistent absence and our attendance is above national for the first time in many years. In the last three years we have improved by 7.9% overall. A fantastic effort. Behaviour has also improved rapidly as exclusions have reduced by over 90% from the same time last year.

Thank you for your support with the re focus on uniform. This has gone well. Please do let us know if you need any assistance. I would also like to draw your attention to our SLA cinema Club on Thursday 29th January from 5pm – 7pm. Free popcorn!

Please do contact me via my PA on g.sidders@thestleonardsacademy.org.uk if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Many thanks

Mr J Francies

Principal

