



Newsletter



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 15 DECEMBER 2017

Important Dates	Week Commencing Monday 18th December is Week 1
	Week Commencing Thursday 4th January 2018 is Week 2
19 12 17	School Ends 12.30pm
03 01 18	School INSET Day
04 01 18	All students return to school
11 01 18	Y10 Parents Evening 1630-1900

From Monday 18th December—Normal school shoes must be worn

Tuesday 19th December, Last Day Of Term - On the last day of term, students and staff will be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper instead of a school shirt, tie and blazer. All other uniform must be worn, school trousers, skirts and suitable school shoes. Students who do not wear a Christmas jumper must come in full school uniform.



The Carousel 1A Bus to Loudwater may not run at 12.30 on the last day of term. Parents/carers are to make alternative arrangements for their children to get home.

Vacancies—We have a number of vacancies for teaching roles, please take a look on our website or the TES for more details of how to apply.

Letters Home

Careers Fair Letter. Please click [here](#).

News from the following Departments:

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we move towards the Christmas break, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It is amazing how quickly my first term has gone at Sir William Ramsay and I have very much enjoyed it. I have been meeting parents and introducing myself at Parents' Evenings and other school events. I will continue to do this over the next term where we have most of our Parents' Evenings.

My main priority has been ensuring that pace of change started last school year is continued and embedded. My focus has been on all year groups not just those where students are sitting external exams this year.

Over the term, I have been very impressed with the inclusive nature of the School and whilst strong academic progress is our absolute priority, we are also making sure that we do not lose the inclusivity which I know our parents/carers value.

There have been a wide range of extra-curricular activities this term involving all year groups. These activities allow students to apply their subject knowledge out of the classroom which is a key skill but at the same time, we have been monitoring the impact of this on academic progress. Every time a teacher is out for the day on an extra-curricular activity, it means that up to 5 classes are having cover lessons; it is very much about striking the balance.

As a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in conjunction with the Governing Body, we have been writing and implementing a new School Action Plan which covers the points raised by the HMI in her visit in September and also actions that came out of our analysis of the 2017 GCSE, A Level and BTEC results. A summary of this Action Plan will be sent out to parents/carers in the new year so that you are well aware of our key areas of focus.

Sadly, we are saying farewell to some staff who are leaving us this Christmas.

Mrs Grewal (Head of Business and ICT)

Mr Law (Science)

Mrs Morrison (Pastoral Manager for Year 11)

Ms Quelch (Cover Officer and has been teaching Music and Drama this term)

Mrs Sneesby (Pastoral Manager for Year 9)

Ms Vaid (Learning Support Assistant)

Mr Verity (PE)

Mrs Williams (Learning Support Assistant)

I would like to thank them for all of their hard work, commitment and support during their time here at Sir William Ramsay School and wish them well in their new posts/ventures.

We will be welcoming the following new staff in January.

Mr Howse (Business Studies)

Mr Phillips (ICT)

Miss Killeen (Music)

Miss Guy (PE) who started in December

Mrs Edwards (LSA)

Mrs Woodcraft (Science) will be returning from maternity leave in January and will, along with our other current Science teachers (we have extra capacity at present in Science), take over Mr Law's timetable.

Mrs Hilton will be taking over as Acting Pastoral Manager of Year 11. Our Pastoral Managers for Years 7, 8 and 10 (Mrs Green, Mrs Williams and Mrs Thomas) will be jointly the Acting Pastoral Manager for Year 9. Both of these are temporary arrangements whilst we recruit permanent Pastoral Managers.

Mrs McLintock

Headteacher

Policy Information

Sir William Ramsay School is consulting on its Admissions Policy for Year 7 entry in September 2019 due to some changes in the oversubscription criteria. A copy of the draft policy is available on the front page of the school's website www.swr.school

Any comments should be emailed to clerk@swr.school by Friday 26 January 2018.

News From Humanities

Year 7 Philosophy and Ethics Film Club is going strong. Pop along on Friday lunch times for films and popcorn.

Our first film is being reviewed by Jessica Bedford in 7.1



Every newsletter I will be introducing my current Humanities Hero. This is someone that I find particularly inspiring at the moment.

Michelle Obama.

Michelle Obama is my first Humanities Hero because of the tireless work she does to help educate girls across the world. Recently, her 'Let Girls Learn' charity, which aims to get 62 million girls into school worldwide, raised \$3.5 billion.



News From Performing Arts



Dance Disability Festival

On 5th December we hosted the Dance Disability Festival. This was an incredible Festival where over 100 students from our partner schools were able to take part. Some of the workshops were organised by our own year 11 dance and two year 12 students. It was so impressive to see how our students were able to develop and lead their very own dance workshops.

It was not only just the dancers who were involved, some of our students from the SEND department took part too. They were a real credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the dancing.

We can't wait to taste that event again next year!



Starry Starry Night

On Thursday evening the Performing Arts Department hosted the annual music concert Starry Starry Night. The event was a great success with some fantastic performances ranging from year 7 to year 12 students. It was so impressive to see such an array of talent that we have at Sir William Ramsay School.



Not only did we have musical performances but we saw some fantastic dance performances from both year 11 dancers and the students in the after-school dance club.

Photos from the event will be published in the next terms newsletter!

News From Year 9

Just a reminder of the important dates **Thursday 25th January** is Parents Evening and **Thursday 8th February** is Options Evening. The final deadline for options is **9th March 2018**.

Our assemblies have been focused around sleep and it's importance.

In January all students will have a three week period of assemblies, presented by all the subjects that they will be studying at GCSE.

On Friday 8th December a group of students were invited to attend a Bucks University Passport Day. The day is run by the university team and focuses on team building tasks, discovering what student life is like, courses offered, financial aspects and a tour of the university. They also had the chance to chat to student ambassadors and worked together on a presentation. Students behaved impeccably and we have been invited to attend some more of these sessions this year.



If you have anything that you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Henwood (Academic Leader) or Mrs Sneesby (Pastoral Manager)

News From Year 10

Oxford Brookes Passport Day

On Tuesday 5th December, 40 year 10 students headed over to Oxford Brookes University for a passport day to learn more about higher education.

During the day students were able to take a tour of the university grounds, visiting the library, lecture theatres, study rooms and most importantly food halls and cafes.

The students completed the following activities:

Comfort zones- students were given a range of different scenarios and had to traffic light them to say if they were in their comfort zone.

Route to university - Students discussed different ways to get to university and found out from the Oxford Brookes students how they got to university and different paths they could take.

Different jobs - Students looked at a variety of jobs and figured out the best path for each of them to get to University. The jobs included; Engineering, Primary School Teacher and Nurse.



The final part of the day was looking at University societies; one of the most exciting parts of university are the various societies you can join. We found out about the different societies at Oxford Brookes. Then students had the chance to come up with their own Society. They then presented these ideas to the rest of the group before winners were announced. The groups included; sleeping society, film club, globe trotters society, wheelchair basketball and a food club. The overall winners for best idea were the Globe Trotters and joint winner for best presentation went to film society and extreme sports society.

At the end of the day a winner was chosen for the person who had worked well consistently throughout the day and actively participated. This went to Dallas Hooper who won a £10 Amazon voucher.



News From Year 11

Last weekend 3 Year 11 girls took part in the UKCA Winter Championships in Cheerleading in Manchester. The students had a great weekend and managed to walk away with a number of the top prizes. All 3 girls; Tia Salter, Emily Sproate & Daniella Baker competed in the Senior Level 3 Routine in which they claimed 1st place! They also came 2nd in Junior B Level 4 and came 3rd in Street Cheer. Tia and her new partner (who only started training together in September) managed to win 1st place in the Partner Stunt category. Daniella came 3rd with her partner in the Partner Stunt competition, whilst Emily Sproate and her partner came 4th in the Routine competition.

Well done to all the girls that took part and congratulations on your achievements!

