

PARENT/CARER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well. In addition to the monthly newsletters, I will be providing parent /carer updates to keep you abreast of the latest developments at SMRT.

It has been a very positive start to the year with lots of purposeful activity. I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all our students who supported our successful Open Evening this week. The students were a credit to themselves and the school. I was hugely impressed although not surprised by the quality of work that our staff showcased on the evening. It gave a real flavour of all that is great about SMRT.

Levi Roots

It was an absolute pleasure to have the world-renowned chef Levi Roots visit us on Tuesday. Levi delivered an incredible talk to our Year 9 students which supported our DT curriculum as well as our Alive values. Levi Roots stayed to take photos with students and staff and to autograph material. We look forward to welcoming him back so that other students can benefit from his expertise and experience. Photos to follow via our Twitter account.

The Three Circles

Our three circles are very important to the realisation of our vision and mission of every student and member of staff being 'fully Alive'. These circles will inform the decisions we make as a school moving forward. At the start of this new chapter, we have a particular focus on ensuring that these circles are meaningful and positively impact all our stakeholders.



Parent Information Evenings

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to attend the information evenings last week. It was great to be able to introduce myself and the School Leadership Team to you and

share our ambitions and plans for the school. We will be sharing the presentations from the evening via the website. You can view our School Leadership Team [here](#).

There are a range of parent engagement events scheduled this term:

- Y8-11 Information Evenings (took place last week)
- Open Evening – Tuesday 21 September
- Open Mornings – 26, 27 and 28 September – please see the link [here](#) for booking details
- Year 12 Information Evening – 22 September
- Year 13 Information Evening – 28 September
- Year 7 Information Evening - 29 September

Parent Forums

In addition to our information evenings, I am looking to introduce some more informal opportunities for parents/carers to meet with myself and members of the School Leadership Team to provide feedback, ask questions, and for us to get your views on particular issues. This will operate on a 'drop-in' basis. More details to follow once we have completed the parent/carer events we have scheduled.

SEND

I am pleased to share that we will be holding an Information Evening for parents/carers of SEND children. This will take place at **6pm on Tuesday 15 November**. More information to follow.

Please could any future communications about your child's SEND or learning support be sent to learningsupport@smrt.bristol.sch.uk, where it will be triaged by one of the Learning Support team.

We would like to request that this email address is used rather than the SENCO's individual email address.

If your query relates to any other matters, please contact your child's Head of House:

Muller House – pikej@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

Equiano House – harej1@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

Franklin House – ainswortha@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

Johnson House- mansellj@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

Liddell House - wilsond@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

Please follow the link [here](#) for more information on our pastoral support.

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe is an absolute priority for all schools, and this is a responsibility that we take seriously at SMRT. In addition to the statutory measures, we are keen to further develop our support for parents and carers. To this end we have signed up to National Online Safety and are in the process of launching their parent support material. Please follow the link [here](#) for more information about National Online Safety.

Policies/Protocols

We have several policies that are under review, and I would like to bring your attention to the following policies in particular. The Term indicates when we expect the revised or new policy to be in place. We will let you know when the new policies are on the website and will let you know of the changes and rationale behind the changes.

- Attendance – Term 1
- Complaints – Term 1
- Behaviour and Good Relationships (formerly Behaviour Policy) - Term 1

Year 11 Lunchtime Arrangements

As shared at the Parent Information Evening last week, we held an assembly for all Year 11 students on 16 September, and informed them that following a careful risk assessment, we will **not** be allowing Year 11 students off site at lunchtime. We explained that this decision has come after concerns over the last few years in relation to safeguarding, which led to the decision to review. We have thought about this as a School very carefully and appreciate that many students will be disappointed. We shared with students that we are now in the process of engaging with them to provide a programme of Year 11 enrichment and privileges which recognises their Year 11 status.

Website

Behind the scenes, our new website has entered the design phase. We will keep you updated on progress. In the meantime, please do contact the school if you require any help with locating information on our current website.

SMRT Twitter Account

We have a twitter account and would like to encourage parents and carers to follow us on @SMRTSchool. This will enable us to keep you informed of key information and enable you to help us by liking or retweeting information. We currently have just over 500 followers and would like to see if we can double that in the next few weeks!

Del Planter

Headteacher