

15 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The year got off to a wonderful start with services taking place for all Year groups in St Mary Redcliffe Church.

I have enjoyed the first couple of weeks of term and took pleasure in greeting the students and welcoming over 200 Year 7 students and 350 Year 12 students. I would like to commend all our students for the positive start they have made to the academic year. This week we held our first Meet the Tutor events. Although we have held these previously for Year 7 parents/carers, we were pleased to be able to extend this to all year groups across the main school and sixth form. Thank you to our parents and carers for your engagement and feedback. The positive feedback is very encouraging, and we are already focused on how we can refine the process.

I shared my vision and expectations for the coming year as a School community at our staff INSET days on 1 and 4 September, and to students during the services on 5 September. Parents/carers will be familiar with our three circles of Safe Boundaries, Good Relationships, and Empowered Learning as the basis of Hope.



### Priorities

We are an ambitious school community, and our priorities for this academic year are:

- To further strengthen a culture of safeguarding
- Embedding an inclusive and ambitious culture for learning
- Embedding high standards of learning across the curriculum

The Effective SMRT Lesson is a core component of our approach. Please follow the [link](#) to see the ingredients of an effective lesson at SMRT. We have shared this with all students, and teachers use these principles and expectations to inform their planning. Please also consult our [Behaviour and Good Relationships Policy](#) for detail on our expectations, rewards, and processes.

### **Attendance**

High levels of school attendance is vital to success at school and student wellbeing. The annual letter which you can access [here](#) provides important information to enable parents/carers to support high levels of attendance. Our [attendance](#) page provides a clear outline of our processes and support mechanisms which are in line with guidance from Bristol City Council and the Department for Education.

### **Road Safety (leaving the SMRT site at the end of the day)**

SMRT is situated in a congested area, and it is therefore imperative that we can guide students offsite safely and swiftly at the end of the day. We appreciate there are pressures on parents/carers in terms of picking up children and honouring other commitments. However, we often observe practice that compromises the safety of students and staff, and inconveniences parents/carers, our neighbours, and members of the public. We are seeking advice from the Local Authority on measures that will help, but in the meantime can we please request that parents/carers:

- Do not to stop on the double yellow lines on the road outside the School.
- Be mindful of their speed, with lots of young people and members of the public crossing the road.
- Where possible, arrange pick up points away from the road/square immediately outside the School.
- Encourage their children to leave the school site as swiftly as possible and be mindful of traffic.

Members of staff are on duty at the end of the day for 15 minutes, and we have shared the following message with all students during a tutor period:

1. Follow the instructions of staff on duty at the first time of asking.
2. Follow the Green Cross Code:
  - Think! First find the safest place to cross.
  - Stop! Stand on the pavement near the kerb.
  - Look all around for traffic and listen.
  - Wait until it is safe to cross! If traffic is coming, let it pass.
  - Look and listen! When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run or walk diagonally.
3. Refrain from using your phone when crossing the road as it is a massive distraction.

### **Leadership Update**

Further to my [letter](#) regarding Mr Shaw, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Duzniak (Assistant Headteacher) has been appointed as Interim Deputy Headteacher. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best in this role. We will update you on plans for recruiting substantively to this post. Mr Pike (Director of Safeguarding and Mental Health) has been promoted to Interim Assistant Headteacher. He will retain his previous role whilst adding more capacity to the Leadership Team.

## **Premises News**

My thanks as always go to our IT and Premises Teams, and our School Business Manager Mr Morris, who work so hard over the summer to ensure that our buildings and technology are well maintained. We are fortunate to have such wonderful and committed staff. I know that the students will value all their hard work and keep the buildings looking as wonderful as they do.

## **Open Evening and Mornings**

The Open Evening and Open Mornings for prospective students hoping to join us in Year 7 next September will take place on site in September. Details of the dates, timings, and arrangements are on the Key Information ([Admissions](#)) Page of the SMRT website.

If you have questions about aspects of our School that you want answered, please email our Admissions Secretary, Mrs Botting ([bottingg@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:bottingg@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)), and your question will be passed to the correct member of staff to be answered if she's unable to answer it herself.

Please do remember that you must complete **both** the Local Authority application form (available online) and our own supplementary application form (which is an online form) if you are applying for a faith place at SMRT. The deadline for the completion of the online form is midnight on **31 October 2023**. This is the second day back after the holiday, so Mrs Botting will be available if you have any last-minute questions.

We also have Open Evenings for those students wishing to join the School in Year 12 from other schools, or from our current Year 11 cohort. Details can be found on the [Sixth Form/Applying to Us](#) page of the School website.

## **Examination Results Summary and Highlights 2023**

We are pleased to report a strong set of results. 2023 marked the first year of grading boundaries returning to the pre-pandemic methodology with early indicators showing a fall in outcomes nationally compared to the Covid and pre-Covid period. SMRT is very proud of its students and their hard work. Congratulations also to all staff on their commitment, support for learning, attention to detail, and determination in supporting our students to achieve so well. Congratulations to all our parents/carers on their care, guidance, and support. Our outcomes were higher than the 2019 pre-pandemic outcomes and, in some areas, higher than the inflated 2022 outcomes. We will report updated figures in due course, as these figures may still rise further. Our progress score will not be validated until late October or early November 2023.

Staff worked hard to look after students on results days, ensuring that they all had a chance to discuss their next steps if they needed support. We are particularly pleased that at GCSE we were able to secure Maths and English outcomes higher than in 2022 (the last year of Covid inflated outcomes) and 2019 the (last year non-covid affected exam outcomes).

## **GCSE**

The 2023 GCSE results were strong with indicators suggesting that outcomes were above local and national levels, with:

- 99% receiving at least one GCSE qualification.
- 79% of students achieving a 4 or above in English and Maths.
- 57% of students achieving a 5 or above in English and Maths.
- 76% of students achieved 5 or more grades at 4 or above including English and Maths

- 576 grades 7-9 were secured across all subjects. A grade 9 is much harder to get than the old A\* as grades 7, 8 and 9 cover A and A\* grades.

### **A Level**

Well done to all students who sat an A Level exam in 2023. As usual, there was a very high take up of higher education places. Every grade achieved and place won is to be celebrated! As usual, we have lots of students who have been successful in going off to study in prestigious learning establishments, and it is nice to be able to celebrate their achievements. There were 11 students who were successful in getting places at Oxford and Cambridge. We also have 9 students going on to study human and veterinarian medicine. Outcomes overall were higher than the pre-pandemic level of 2019.

- There was a pass rate of 98%.
- 78% of grades at grade C or above.
- 53% of grades were at grade B or above.
- 24% at grade A or above.

### **Community Languages Results**

14 students in last year's Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form groups took GCSE exams in a community language, i.e. a language they haven't learnt in school, and were supported by Mrs Casselden (Deputy Head of MFL). Students took exams in Portuguese, Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, German, and Russian. Congratulations to them for all for their hard work and success!

If you would like your child to take an exam in their community language, please do contact Mrs Casselden for more information.

### **Website, Newsletter and Calendar**

The new [SMRT website](#) was launched in July, with a more user-friendly and 'contemporary' feel. It is an important source of information, so please do familiarise yourselves with it, as you may find the answer to your questions there. Please let us know if you have any queries regarding the website.

From the website you can access the most up to date SMRT [calendar](#). For parents/carers new to SMRT, the intention of the monthly Newsletter (available via the School website [here](#) and emailed to those parents/carers for whom we hold an email address) is to provide information about the successes of our students and the wider life of SMRT, as well as keeping you up to date with diary matters. If you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact Mrs Chaibi ([chaibih@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:chaibih@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)).

### **Homework and Curriculum**

We have carried out extensive work on our website Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 curriculum subject pages which will be relaunched this month. The pages will be more engaging and provide you with more clarity about the curriculum and assessment and how they are linked. We will update you when the new pages are live but, in the meantime, the [current pages](#) provide a wealth of information. We are updating the homework page and moving it to the curriculum area of the website. In the meantime you can access the homework timetable for each year group [here](#).

## **EduLink**

Each student is given their own EduLink login (it's their username and IT password) and can use this to view key information like their timetable and homework. Parents/Carers are issued with their own login information from our student data team to allow them to access information about a variety of information e.g. homework, timetables, Alive points, and reporting absences. Students should speak to their tutor if they are having difficulties accessing information via EduLink. Parents/carers should contact [the Student Data Team](#) if they haven't received their EduLink account details or are having trouble accessing EduLink for any reason.

## **Updating Your Contact Details**

It is very important that we have up to date contact details for our parents and carers. You can update the information we hold for you very easily using your individual parent/carer EduLink account. You can only update the information for you personally, i.e. you will not be able to see the information we hold for any of the other contacts for your child. EduLink is available [here](#) or you can use the website's 'Quicklinks' feature in the upper right of the site to find the link, as well as links to other key services. EduLink has mobile apps available for both [Apple](#) and [Android](#) too. Do check what information we hold for **you** and update it if necessary.

## **Staff News**

We appointed some additional staff during the holiday and there are some additions to the list published in the July newsletter.

### **New Teaching Staff**

Ms Stott	English
Mr Reed	MFL
Ms Bevan	Social Sciences
Miss Kerby	History

### **New Support Staff**

Miss Dodds	LSA
Miss Sweet	LSA
Mr Crossman	LSA
Miss Miller	LSA
Miss Keiller-Hall	LSA
Mrs Avery	LSA
Miss Cox	LSA
Mr Wellens	LSA
Miss Victory	LSA
Mr McLeod	LSA (Specialist Mentor)
Mrs Hjria	HR Business Partner
Ms Emmett	HR Coordinator
Mrs Evans	Faculty Administrator (SEND)

## **Free School Meals**

We know that the circumstances of many parents and carers change, and if you are not already registered for free school meals and think you may be entitled, please do register. This helps the school as some of our funding is allocated on the percentage of students on free school meals. This helps your family and the wider school community. Even if your child

prefers to bring in a packed lunch, you can register for free school meals and have the occasional morning free from the chore of sandwich making! You can apply for free school meals from Year 3 onwards (including Secondary Schools) if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get. This is also called the 'minimum income floor'.) If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2025.

The Local Authority [website](#), has all the information you need and you can apply '[on line](#)'. Please contact Mr Morris (School Business Manager) in School if you need more information ([morrisi@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:morrisi@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)).

### **Scopay (School Meals and Trip Payments)**

Our online facility for parents/carers to top up student 'accounts' is well used (see the website's 'Quicklinks' feature in the upper right of the site to find the link). Do please use this facility to pay for trips, etc. If you don't have the code necessary to register your child, do please contact one of our Finance team who will be happy to help you ([finance@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:finance@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)).

### **Community News**

We wish all our new staff, students, and their families well as they join our wonderful community, and hope that everyone has a happy and successful year!

Yours faithfully



Mr Planter  
Headteacher