

7th November 2018

STUDENT NAME: _____

TUTOR GROUP: _____

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of the second half term of the 2018-19 academic year. The first half term was certainly the best one since I have been Headteacher with an excellent feel throughout the school.

OUR BEST START YET

There is a really focused atmosphere throughout the building and behaviour has been outstanding. I am delighted to report that 931 students average at least one positive per day, with only 76 students throughout the entire school averaging more than two negative entries per week. Staff and students have responded well to the new timings of the school day, whilst the prospect of being kept behind daily by the form tutor has helped to focus some minds! Year 7 students have settled in particularly well. Sixth formers should also be congratulated on the productive manner in which they have embraced the additional supervised private study periods. Thank you for ensuring that your daughter/son attends school every day in full uniform. It has been a pleasure seeing how smart individuals look on their way to and from school, an excellent indicator of pride in the school. If you have not already done so, I would urge you to look at what your daughter/son is studying this term, details of which are available on our website under the Subjects & Exams tab/Curriculum.

The academic year started off with hundreds of students being acknowledged as part of our Celebration Evening and this positivity has continued. Whilst we are only eight weeks into the new academic year, there have already been numerous trips including the Bushcraft experience for Year 7, sixth form geographers conducting fieldwork in South Wales as well as the Year 8-11 netball tour to Shropshire, whilst groups have also been to see Comedy of Errors at the RSC, visit the University of Birmingham and visit Alton Towers as part of their studies. We have also had competitive netball, football, rugby, cross country and hockey fixtures, a terrific Sports Awards Evening and a successful Live Lounge performance.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Of course, students need to be attending school every day if they are to make significant progress and learn successfully. I am delighted that our new Attendance Support Room is having a very positive impact on attendance figures which are up 0.7% on the same period last year. Please support us in ensuring that your child strives to attain 100% attendance going forwards. Currently 1034 students average over 96% attendance with 648 maintaining a 100% record. **If your child is struggling and feeling under the weather, please give them some appropriate medication and send them into school**, rather than allowing them to stay at home. If students are absent, then they will only fall further behind with their studies. In the unlikely event of an absence, please leave a message on our Absence Line on 01789 209296 or phone Mrs Wilkinson, our Attendance Officer, directly regarding longer term absences on 01789 416621.

Stratford upon Avon School

Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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REMEMBRANCE

This week **we will be holding a collective act of remembrance on Friday** afternoon. Tragically, although World War I is also often referred to as *'the war to end all wars'*, we all know it didn't. The last 100 years have been filled with unending conflict and hostility rather than peace. And so, this Armistice Day leaves us with a huge question. How do we best remember the sacrifice of the tens of millions who gave their lives – or had them taken from them – at the same time as working to build real peace across the world today? I am looking forward to spending the weekend exploring the battlefields of the First World War and representing the school at a commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice in Lille, France alongside representatives of our partner school, Collège Privé Lacordaire à Mons-en-Baroeul, whilst other colleagues and students will be participating in the remembrance ceremony in Stratford.

SCHOOL FUNDING

You may have heard about the **£400m** 'bonus' the government announced in the Budget last week for education. The Chancellor's comment that this money will help schools **to 'buy the little extras they need'** shows a complete misunderstanding of the prevailing funding pressures in education. Sadly, this hardly scratches the surface of what is needed. Schools need improved core funding with several schools locally struggling to balance the books. However, we manage our finances well and are determined to resist the temptation to beg parents for significant ongoing financial support.

IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER

Now that the clocks have gone back and with the winter months looming, in the event of snow or extreme weather staff will make a decision as to whether to open the school. As we are fortunate to have a modern, warm building, which doesn't suffer with frozen pipes or outdated boilers, we will endeavour to remain open whenever possible. In the unlikely event that it does become necessary to close, notices will be placed on our website www.stratforduponavonschool.com, sent by Twitter and email, and a verbal message placed on the switchboard (ring 01789 268051). Our target is always to post these notices by 6.45 a.m. at the latest. We also notify Warwickshire County Council, who place lists of all the county school closures on their website and liaise with local radio stations.

Finally, may I thank you for your ongoing support. If you don't already, please follow us on Twitter [@StraUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StraUponAvonSch) for regular updates.

Yours sincerely



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher

SOME KEY DATES:

Wednesday 14 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 21 st November	Year 9 Tutor Evening
Wednesday 28 th November	Year 10 Parents Evening
Tuesday 18 th – Thursday 20 th December	School Show: 'We Will Rock You'
Friday 21 st December	Term finishes at 1.10pm for all students
Tuesday 8 th January	Term begins at 8.45am for all students