

4th September 2018

STUDENT NAME: _____

TUTOR GROUP: _____

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to welcome you all at the start of the academic year. It has been a really successful summer for us as a school with strong examination results across the board, reflecting positively on the commitment shown by students and staff.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

You may have seen articles in the local press reporting the **examination successes** of our students at A Level and GCSE. At A Level, we saw an increase in the Average Points Score, A*-C grades and the overall pass rate. Over two thirds of all grades are A*-C (67.6%), whilst 97.8% are grades A*-E. At GCSE there was a school record with 64.3% of students achieving 5 standard passes including English and Maths, including the majority of our disadvantaged students. 49 students achieved the highest possible grade in at least one subject, with 23 students achieving at least one grade 9 as many subjects were assessed with numerical grades for the first time. Students, parents, staff and governors should be proud of these achievements.

TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

As many of you know, I am a keen cycling fan and firm believer in the importance of the 'marginal gains' that has enabled British cyclists to achieve considerable success over recent years. The same is true in schools and this thinking underpins some of the changes we have made this year. As you are aware, **the school day now starts immediately with Period 1 lessons** and the tutor/assembly period has moved to the end of the day. This will promote good punctuality and ensure that the day starts promptly. **There are now 4x 1 hour lessons in the morning**, enabling us to make the most of the prime learning time.

Having the **tutor period at the end of the day** means that the form tutor can review and congratulate those who have done well and also detain those who arrived late or who have not met our expectations during the day. **Students who receive a grade 3 during a lesson will automatically be kept behind for up to 10 minutes by their form tutor.** This should maximise the impact of our new register grades given during lessons by providing a same-day response.

ATTENDANCE SUPPORT ROOM (ASR)

Our new Attendance Support Room has replaced Student Services in order to promote excellent attendance. Students need to be attending school every day and in lessons if they are to make significant progress and learn successfully. The ASR will also provide first aid and some administrative functions for students, but our focus will very much be on ensuring that students are in lessons as much as possible.

Stratford upon Avon School

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Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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The importance of attendance was reinforced by analysis of our own examination results this summer. 80% of our own Year 11 students whose attendance was above 96% achieved 5 standard passes including English and Maths. However, only 50% of our students did so whose attendance was between 92-95% and a mere 33% of those whose attendance was below 90%. At the risk of stating the obvious, if you're not in lessons, you can't learn! We need to work together in order to significantly reduce amount of learning lost through absence. **If youngsters are 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. Similarly, we will be encouraging them to remain in lessons during the day. Please note that Persistent Absence is defined as individual attendance falling below 90% and students falling below this level will be referred to Warwickshire's Attendance, Compliance & Enforcement Service (ACE).

UNIFORM

We would also appreciate your support in ensuring that students come to school in the **correct uniform** throughout the year. May I remind you that the uniform includes **plain black footwear** and that school **skirts must be a modest length** (no higher than just above the knee). We expect students to be proud of their school and dress accordingly. If you are in any doubt about uniform requirements, full details are on the website under the 'school information' tab. By wearing full school uniform day after day students show that they buy into the ethos of the school and this removes unnecessary arguments and barriers to learning.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Please check and sign the student planner weekly as well as logging onto **My Child at School** to ensure you are aware of homework that has been set and other key information. We will endeavour to send students' work home regularly so that you can keep a close eye on how much pride your child is taking in their work and the progress they are making. I would ask you to build a relationship with your child's tutor as the first point of contact, though individual teaching staff may be contacted directly by their initialsurname@stratfordschool.co.uk e.g. nwallace@stratfordschool.co.uk.

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

We are looking forward to showcasing our school at the **Year 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 26th September** from 4-7pm. Many of our current students will be present to help out on the evening. In order to prepare for the evening, we will be **closing at 1.10pm** on that day. However, school buses will remain at their normal time. If you wish your child to remain in school until 3.10pm please inform their form tutor so that we can make alternative arrangements.

In the meantime, we look forward to working closely together to ensure that your daughter/son has a safe, happy and successful academic year. I am very confident that the changes we are making will improve punctuality, attendance, learning and behaviour enabling our students to be even more successful next year. Please follow us on twitter [@StraUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StraUponAvonSch) or check the school website www.stratforduponavonschool.com for regular updates. Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely,



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher