



## From the Headmaster

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### Uniform

It has been good to welcome pupils and staff back for the summer term this week. A reminder that summer uniform rules now apply; if pupils wish to, they may wear the crested short-sleeve shirt with no tie and their top button undone. Pupils must still wear their blazers, unless I deem it to be an 'officially hot' day, in which case blazers can be left at home and all pupils are permitted to go without a tie. I will inform parents in advance in the event of any officially hot days. Whilst it isn't technically against the rules, it is a little odd to see pupils wearing crested shirts, no tie and thick jumpers; this rather defeats the purpose of the rule!

### Mobile Phones

We have received reports from concerned drivers about students looking at their mobile telephones while crossing roads near the school. I would be most grateful if you could stress the importance of crossing roads safely to your son or daughter if they walk to school or walk from the public service bus stops.

A reminder that students are allowed to bring their mobile 'phones in to school but, with the exception of Sixth Formers, they should not be used at any time on the school site until the end of the day, unless given permission by and under the direct supervision of a member of staff. I would appreciate parents' support in reinforcing the message.

### Year 10

Year 10 students have taken their exams this week and next week are out on work experience placements as part of the careers programme. My thanks to all those parents and organisations who have offered placements, it is a huge undertaking to send an entire year group into the workplace and I am most grateful for your continued support of the School, and to Mrs Manning for all her work in securing placements for students. Year 10 are almost at the midway point of their GCSE studies, so I hope that having a week experiencing the real world will help them redouble their efforts in their studies on their return to school. It is important that we remind ourselves that our role is not simply to steer pupils successfully to take their GCSEs or A levels but rather to help them achieve the qualifications, skills, values and attitudes that will help them when they join the world of work and sustain them through what we hope will be long, happy and productive lives.

### Forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions

Good luck to all those Year 9, 10 and 12 students about to set off on their DofE practice and final expeditions over the next few weeks. I know that pupils enjoy the challenge of the expeditions, and always return with a sense of pride and real accomplishment. I will keep my fingers crossed for good weather.

### Fashion Design Competition Winner

My congratulations to Finn Marshall who recently won the UK-wide Young Talent of Tomorrow Fashion Design Competition (Year 12 Category). This means one 'look' from his winning collection will be brought to life and showcased on the catwalk at Graduate Fashion Week 2024 from 10-13 June. This is an incredible achievement, and we are extremely proud of Finn's success.

### Open Days

We open our doors to prospective pupils and their families once more on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 April. Please do share this information with any friends or family considering their Year 7 choices, primary school pupils in any year group are welcome to attend. Online registration is available at [www.strschool.co.uk/admissions/opendays](http://www.strschool.co.uk/admissions/opendays).

With very best wishes for the weekend

Matthew Morgan

HEADMASTER

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