

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear SGS Forest families,

We hope this letter finds you safe and well.

**It has been delightful to welcome back your children this week.** We have been really impressed by how smartly they have been dressed in their uniform or PE kit and by their hard work in lessons, despite the heat.

Please note that temperatures are set to be cooler next week, so **all students will be expected to attend in full school uniform from Monday.** This includes following our rules about jewellery, including one stud in each ear only and no facial piercings. We will have a tutor group line up on Monday morning to check all uniform and equipment.

Students' attendance to school has been excellent this week and must continue to be so. As this summer's impressive Year 11 results show, **students who attend school make good progress and achieve well.** More information to follow on how we will be supporting students' attendance and what we expect of families.

In the meantime, we are celebrating those **impressive Year 11 exam results**, which reflect huge effort by those students and huge improvements to everything we do here at SGS Forest. We will share the details with you when the results are published fully by the Department for Education.

While looking back at last year, we also want to put in writing our thanks and good wishes to staff who left SGS Forest at the end of term: Samantha Dalley, Rhiannon Dashfield and Santina Iannone. We would also like to welcome Bethan Thomas, who joined us this week as Teacher of Science.

Three further notices from us:

- **Each student has been given their own set of basic equipment needed for lessons.** We expect them to take care of this equipment and to bring it with them every day.
- **We expect each student to bring their own water bottle**, which they can refill in our canteen at break and lunch. We do not provide students with cups.
- **Reading tests for all Year 7s and reading interventions** for individual students in all year groups will begin again in the coming weeks.

And a notice from our PE team that **swimming lessons begin next week:**

Year 7 girls - Tuesday P1  
Year 7 boys - Wednesday P1  
Year 8 boys - Thursday P1  
(Year 8 girls - swimming after the October half-term on a Thursday P1)

Students to line up for PE as normal, with their own swimming clothes and a towel.

Finally, we know that every one of you and every one of your children wants SGS Forest to be a safe and welcoming school for all students. Following lots of conversations with students and families last year, we want to let you know that **we are taking a strong stance on the use of discriminatory language.** We are working with students to make sure they understand what this is and why it is not ok to use it. Should any student use discriminatory language, even as what they may think is a joke, they will automatically spend a day in our isolation room. **Thank you in advance for your support with this and with all aspects of your children's success.**

Alan Dane  
Headteacher

Nicola Mooney  
Head of School



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