

# Head's Space

Term 2, 2019/2020



I cannot believe that Christmas is upon us and we are a third of the way through the academic year.

This term has seen our examination groups (Year 11, Year 13 and the Year 12 Transition Students) undertaking their pre-examination assessments and we have been impressed to see how seriously the students approached those exams. It is important that they remember that the revision they do now, before these 'mock exams' (and again in March), will make the revision they need to do for the real exams that little bit easier and more productive.

During this period we have had a great deal of support from the Army. Colonel Simon Browne OBE, who is currently Deputy Commander of the 11th Infantry Brigade, was the special guest at our annual Celebration of Achievement and his speech was very well received indeed. He inspired the students, staff and guests alike, by discussing how a value-based approach to life will serve anyone well. He spoke about the Army values of courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty and selfless commitment and explained that they were more than just words on paper, describing how they had shaped his life on a daily basis. Members of the 11th Brigade have also been working with our Year 9 students to develop life skills. This culminated in a challenging and inspiring day of activities at Invicta Barracks.

Term 2 has also been marked out by lots of rain! Unfortunately, relentless rain can have quite a negative effect on a school as it usually synonymous with more illness, disgruntled students and staff, and, sadly, a deterioration in behaviour. I am delighted to say that, in our case, we have bucked the trend. You may remember that at the beginning of the year I explained that we were having a push on reducing low level disruptive behaviour and that we were encouraging the students to think about their conduct in terms of whether they were being 'reasonable' or not. One third of the way through the year I wanted to see if our efforts were working and I have looked at various statistics to compare the current position with this time last year. I am very pleased indeed to inform you that things are looking much better:

- attendance has improved by 1% (this may seem small, but 1% amounts to each student being in school for an extra two days a year);
- persistent absenteeism (students who have 90% attendance or less) has reduced by 63 students;
- there has been an 11% decrease in the number of students reporting to lessons late;
- there has been a 31% decrease in the number of whole school detentions issued;
- I have excluded 8 fewer students than I did this time last year;
- there has been an 11% increase in the number of students who have 5 or less behaviour points;
- there has been a 47% decrease in the number of behaviour points issued;
- there has been a 25% increase in the number of reward points issued;
- the amount of conduct points (achievement points minus behaviour points) has increased by 159% – on average every student has 26 more achievement points than behaviour points (last year this was only 10);
- the average Homework score and Attitude to Learning score on reports that are sent home have both improved.

In other words, we have improved in every measure! This week and in January I am doing assemblies to share this information with the students and to thank them, but I would also like to thank you, as parents, for your on-going support. I am certain that this improvement will have a positive effect on the exam results of your sons and daughters.

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On this very positive note, all that remains is for me to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a successful new year.

Best wishes

Tracey Savage  
Headteacher

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## Dates for your diary

Please note that our [Term Dates for 2020/2021](#) are now available to view on the STS website.

Tuesday 2 January 2020	First day of Term 3
Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 January 2020	External Examinations
Wednesday 15 January 2020	'Wicked' Theatre Trip
Thursday 16 January 2020	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 17 and Tuesday 21 January 2020	Invicta Maths Challenge (Years 10 and 11)
Monday 20 to Friday 24 January 2020	Year 11 'Next Steps' Interviews
Wednesday 22 January 2020	Kent FA Referees' Course
	School Direct Open Morning
Thursday 23 January 2020	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 27 January 2020	Year 11 and Year 13 Information Evening
Wednesday 29 January 2020	Kent FA Referees' Course
	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip
Tuesday 4 February 2020	'The Taming of the Shrew' Theatre Trip
Wednesday 5 February 2020	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip
Monday 10 February 2020	Year 8 Options Evening
Wednesday 12 February 2020	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip
Thursday 13 and Friday 14 February 2020	HPV injections (Years 8 and 9)
Friday 14 February 2020	Last day of Term 3 ('Tab' Day)

To see more of this year's key dates, events and activities, do please visit our website: [www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk).

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*Hold fast that which is good*

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