

8th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been an excellent summer for us as a school with our best-ever GCSE students, another good set of A Level results, and record numbers of new students joining the school. Congratulations to the 340 students who have settled into Year 7 extremely well and all the new students who have joined us in other year groups. Indeed, we now have 1,820 students on roll for the first time ever as our excellent reputation continues to grow.

EXAM RESULTS

I'm delighted to report that we've just had our best-ever GCSE results, which feel like a fair reflection of a school that is performing at a consistently high level in so many ways. Whilst the national coverage focused on grades coming down to pre-pandemic levels, we actually achieved our best-ever GCSE results. We are delighted to have performed particularly well at the top end with 98 grade 9s awarded (up from 35 in 2019) and 150 grade 8s awarded (up from 116 in 2019). As a comprehensive school, we achieved 5% grade 9s, 22% grades 9-7, 58% grades 9-5, 75% grades 9-4. At A Level, we achieved 14% grade A*-A and 64% grades A*-C. There are so many contributory factors to these results, but they are fundamentally built upon an excellent experience day after day. We have worked hard to increase the discretionary effort of students over recent years and have had hundreds of students attending additional lessons every week over the last couple of years. As I stressed to students in their welcome back assembly, 'the more you put in, the more you get out'.

OPERATIONAL CHANGES

Invariably we make some tweaks every year to improve the school. This year has seen the introduction of split breaks and lunches which has reduced the numbers of students in the diners and common room, and eased congestion at many lesson changeovers. It has been a lovely, calm first week back.

From Monday all Year 7-11 students are required to wear their school blazer everyday. This will have some practical benefits for students by having pockets for their planner, pens and mobile phone (which those wearing skirts, shorts, leggings or skorts don't have). It will also ensure that students look uniformly smart, have no need to wear a hoodie or sweatshirt, whilst bringing us into line with what is common practice in many schools. Students are still expected to have the school quarter zip top as part of their PE kit and may use it as a school jumper. However, the blazer will be compulsory and, if they do not wish to wear all 3 layers, then the PE quarter zip top should be carried in bags so it can be worn if required in PE lessons. **Sixth Form students will also be expected to wear a jacket every day and are not permitted to wear sweatshirts or hoodies either.**

We expect students to be proud of their school and dress accordingly as this removes unnecessary arguments, barriers to learning and sanctions. **Please ensure that names are clearly marked on all garments, particularly blazers.** Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child attends school wearing the correct uniform day after day.

Stratford upon Avon School

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Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

Stratford upon Avon School, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 07690776, whose registered office is Stratford upon Avon School, Alcester Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9DH

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Stratford
Town Trust
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ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At the risk of stating the obvious, if students are not in lessons they are likely to be disadvantaged! **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.

The obvious reason for this is the **direct correlation between attendance and achievement** which was reinforced by analysis of our own examination results this summer showing just how missing school significantly reduces the chances of students achieving good examination grades:

Year 11 attendance (2022-23)	% Grade 9-5 in English and Maths	Average GCSE grade	Average Progress 8 figure (projected)
96%+	61.2	5.7	+0.76
90-96%	52.1	5.1	+0.39
Below 90%	24.5	3.5	-0.63

LESSON GRADES and HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We are continuing with our 'Attitude to Learning' grades which are entered every lesson to help motivate students and provide regular home-school communication. Positives will be issued for Grade 1 ('Excellent lesson') and for a Grade 2 ('Good' lesson), with the default being a '3' representing 'sufficient work'. Parents will continue to receive a daily automated message whenever a student has a lesson that exceeds or falls short of our expectations. Please note that a 4 will be issued for 'insufficient effort/work' and a 5 for 'poor behaviour'. **Students who receive a grade 4 or 5 during a lesson will automatically be kept behind for 10 minutes by their form tutor to reinforce the importance of working hard and completing work in lesson.:**

As well as these regular electronic communications, please log onto **My Child at School** and **check/sign the student planner weekly** to ensure you are aware of other key information. You will receive a weekly email outlining details of homework that has been set via Teams. Please note that homework is mandatory and non-completion will result in students being placed in detention.

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.

OPEN EVENING EARLY CLOSES

We will be closing early for our **Year 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 20th September** from 4-7pm. Many of our current students will be present to help out on the evening and in order to prepare for the evening, we will be **closing at 1.50pm** on that day. We will also be closing early for our **Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 15th November at 1.50pm**. A lunch service will still be available on those days. However, school buses will remain at their normal time on these days. 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. 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 understanding and support,

Yours sincerely,



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher

KEY CALENDAR DATES:

Wed 13 th Sept	– ‘Making the most of Y11 and Y13’ evening
Tue 19 th Sept	– school photographs
Wed 20 th Sept	– Early finish & Y6 open evening
Wed 27 th Sept	– ‘Making the most of Y8’ evening
25 th -30 th Sept	– Y13 After school assessments
2 nd – 7 th Oct	– Y11 in class assessments
Wed 11 th October	– ‘Making the most of Y9 and 10’ evening
Wed 18 th October	– Y13 Parents’ Evening

Half Term	30th October to 3rd November 2023
Staff Training Day	24th November 2023
Last Day of Term	22nd December 2023
Christmas Holiday	25th December 2023 to 5 January 2024
SPRING TERM 2024	
Staff Training Day	8th January 2024
First Day of Term (All Students)	9th January 2024
Half Term	12th February to 16th February 2024
Last Day of Term	22nd March 2024
Easter Holiday	25th March to 5th April 2024
SUMMER TERM 2024	
First Day of Term (All Students)	8th April 2024
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
Half Term	27th May to 31st May 2024
Staff Training Day	19th June 2024
Last Day of Term for students	Friday 19th July 2024