

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parent(s),

### End of term arrangements

The last day of term is **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017** (lessons as normal – pupils to bring in their usual equipment for lessons). Pupils will be dismissed at 12:20pm. This will be a non-uniform day for pupils. We are asking that pupils pay £1 for the privilege of not wearing uniform. The student charity commission has decided that the money we collect will be donated to the Cancer Research UK.

School re-opens on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018** when pupils should return to school at the normal time. The first week of term will be a Week 2 of the timetable.

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February		.	.	.	.	Year 9 Parents & Options Evening
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	.	.	.	.	.	Year 10 Parents Evening
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	.	.	.	.	.	Year 8 Parents Evening
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	.	.	.	.	.	Year 7 Parents Evening

### Staff Training Day – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January

The school will be closed to pupils for staff training.

One of our mantras is: *teach better today than you did yesterday, teach tomorrow better than you do today*. Or to put it another way: however expert we are we can still get better.

We have just finished a round of lesson observations. We were very pleased with what we saw and are confident that your children are being taught well. But we wanted to find a couple of areas that as a school we could work on. We found them and they are both high level teaching skills. They are crafting 'success criteria': explaining to pupils at the beginning of a lesson what we want them to learn by the end of the lesson in ways that make sense to them and designing plenaries – points in the lesson when teachers stop and check who has understood what and use this to shape the rest of the lesson.

### School Holiday Dates 2018-19

Governors have now agreed the school holiday dates for 2018-19. These will be put on the website in January. School will start on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

### Facebook

We have introduced a school Facebook page and will be using this to share pupil achievements and successes with you and also to communicate messages from time to time. Please follow us and like our page! You can search on Facebook using @stratfordschoolacademy.

Follow us on Twitter too - @StratfordSch.

### Football and basketballs

We can now provide pupils with footballs and basketballs before school, at break and lunchtime. So there is no need for anyone to bring a football with them to school: which means that footballs won't go into the road on the way to or from school, get dropped on the stairs, or get taken by other pupils etc. So from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 no one should bring a ball to school with them.

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## **Coats**

We have been very impressed with the way pupils are wearing their uniform this year but we are now seeing some pupils wearing jackets that make it look as if they are wearing a hoodie underneath. We do not allow hoodies and so we think these coats are not appropriate for school. So from January we do not expect any pupil to be wearing one, a jacket even if it isn't a hoodie, makes it look as if the pupil is wearing a hoodie.

## **Behaviour**

This term we introduced a new approach to making sure that pupils behave well in class so that everyone can get on and learn. Pupils call it the STAR system – ask your children. We have been really pleased with how well pupils – your children - have got on with it. Classroom behaviour - which was pretty good anyway - has got better and this means your children are learning more and so are more likely to go on to *be the authors of their own life stories and not the subjects of them.*

## **Parents surgery**

The feedback we get from parent surveys shows that generally you are very happy with the school but we do know that from time to time things go wrong. When that happens I am very keen to know about it and that is why I have a parents surgery every Thursday morning. It is held at Upton Lane on timetable Week 1 and at Grosvenor Road on timetable Week 2. Your children can tell you which timetable week it is (or you can ring us up).

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Seager**  
**Headteacher**