



Our ref: ARG/NJG

July 2018

Dear parent/carer

I write this letter as our Enrichment Week comes to an end and what a week it has been. Our students have taken part in a wonderful selection of trips and activities enabling them to visit new places and try out new things, from Cologne to the Donkey Sanctuary, ultimate Frisbee to yoga! I hope they have made some lasting memories as they've experienced things for the first time and visited places they've never been to before. Our students have been brilliantly behaved and a credit to the school community so a huge thank you to them – and to all our staff for running the various trips during the week.

This year has seen a fantastic collection of student successes and as ever I am incredibly proud of our students' energy, ambition and commitment to St James. Students have raised over £4,600 for various charities, including Guide Dogs for the Blind, Force, Age UK, Night Stop, Solving Kids' Cancer and Sport Relief, through their own fundraising initiatives and have shown real creativity in the new ways they have found to help raise money. They've celebrated World Book Day and the European Day of Languages, hosted a city wide event celebrating the centenary of women being able to vote and competed in a cross city Poetry Slam competition. They've continued their leading role in Young Enterprise, hosted a Fairtrade Conference, participated in ESU debating competitions and visited the Royal Albert Hall, Northcott Theatre and Princess Theatre among others. Students have completed Ten Tors, the 1633 Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme; competed in a number of sporting events – cross country, table tennis, rugby and football to name but a few – and taken part in our Christmas and Summer concerts. The list could go on and on, there are so many successes to mention. We have tried to include the most recent in our summer term celebration video which can be found on our website at: <http://www.stjamesexeter.co.uk/news/celebration-videos/>.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the new mobile phone policy that we introduced in June. Students have responded very positively to the change and it has been great to see them talking to each other at break time and lunch time! We have also seen the positive impact from this new policy in a number of other areas so we will be continuing with this policy in place for the foreseeable future.

Thank you also for your support with the new behaviour system that was introduced this half term. The impact has been clear to see in lessons and student feedback has also been very positive. We have had a few teething issues to resolve which is inevitable when introducing a new process, however I hope that we have done this this term so when we return in September the new system is established and we can continue to see the positive impact.

As mentioned in my last letter, from September our site will be closed to all vehicular traffic excluding school buses, staff, drivers in possession of a disabled badge and visitors. We would therefore ask please that in September you find an alternative place to drop your child/ren off which is not on the school site. If there are extenuating circumstances that mean you need to drop your child/ren off on school site, you will need to apply for a St James parking pass using the form on our website: <http://www.stjamesexeter.co.uk/parents/parking-passes/>

I am delighted to share the news that St James have been asked by the Department for Education to become a Centre of Excellence Hub for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). We are one of only nine in the country and it is great to receive this national recognition for our continually improving MFL results and our aspirant belief that the majority of our students should study a language.

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the staff that are leaving us this year and a huge thank you for all their hard work and commitment to St James during their time with us. They will be very much missed and we wish them all the luck in the world as they move onto the next exciting chapter.

Student success is as a result of the ongoing partnership between parents, students and ourselves, and I would like to thank you for your continued support. As ever, we welcome your feedback, so please do continue to let us know of anything you think we can do to further improve things at St James.

Please can I remind you that we are expecting students in years 8-11 at 10.00am on Wednesday 5th September 2018. It will be week A. If you have any questions in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I hope you have a really lovely summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Grashoff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs A Grashoff
Headteacher