

24th February 2023



Dear Parents

Re: Term 4 Update

I hope you had an enjoyable half term break.

We've had a great start to Term 4 with our Christian partners The Bridge leading our Annual Check It Out! week which coincides with the season of Lent. No doubt you have heard of the great atmosphere created by our friend DJ Jozzy, but I also hope children have come home and talked about this year's theme Love. Students have enjoyed our connect café, lots of workshops, silent discos and assemblies.

On Monday I received the call from Ofsted that they were coming to inspect the school. Although I am not yet permitted to share the outcome of the inspection, I could not have been prouder of our students and staff. Students were happy to share their learning and the Inspectors were very positive about the school. I look forward to sharing the report as soon as I am able to.

Thank you if you completed the Ofsted survey. It was very reassuring to read the many positive comments from parents. There were a small handful of comments which were less positive and if you were a parent that did this I am not aware who you are as the survey is anonymous. Please feel free to get in touch and I will be very happy to meet with you and try to resolve any concerns.

Next week is National Offer Day for Secondary Schools and I am absolutely delighted that we are now oversubscribed with first choices. This means we will have another bumper Year 7 cohort and families are choosing Sarum to support their child through their secondary school experience. There is indeed much for all our current students and staff to be proud of!

New Behaviour Policy

There is no denying that the impact of the pandemic has been felt in every school across the country. Here at Sarum we have also been adjusting to having big year groups at KS3 and I make no apologies that we have high expectations of behaviour, attitudes and learning. In 2023 we are working harder than ever to develop best practice across the Academy and in doing so have introduced a number of new systems to support students to be successful. These apply in classrooms, during lesson transitions and in social times. Both students and staff have said how positively this is impacting our learning environment.

During Term 4 we will be rolling out a new Behaviour Policy. This has been created with input from students and staff to ensure that our expectations are simple and that the behaviour policy can be followed easily and effectively by students and by staff. You will receive a letter from Mr Gale outlining this in the coming weeks. Please contact Mr Gale if you would like to be part of a parents' consultation group ahead of the launch of this.

Rewards

Our very first students to receive our new values pins will be nominated by staff this week and then, in the future, all students will be able to work towards gaining one (or more) of these via ClassCharts points.

Next Teacher Strike Action

The next industrial action is due to take place next Thursday, 2nd March and then Wednesday, 15th

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March and Thursday, 16th March. I am awaiting final arrangements for next week, but am anticipating the same arrangements as last time. You will receive a letter to confirm this on Monday.

Communication

ClassCharts is now well embedded with the majority of families using it every day to see information via announcements and positive and negative behaviour points. Messages are very easy and effective. From last term we have been using ClassCharts as our main method of communication with fewer emails and text messages. If you have any problem at all accessing ClassCharts the Main Office will be happy to get you logged in.

Staff will aim to reply within 24 hours and only in working hours, so if you send a message over the weekend it is unlikely to be read until Monday. Please also bear in mind that if a teacher is teaching all day it could be Tuesday before you have a response. If it is anything urgent, please do call the Main Office who will help you.

Term 4 Dates

Year 9 Option Choices Evening 4:30pm – date to be confirmed shortly due to the strike day

8 th March	MLP Science Event
14 th March	Extended Learning Day 3
22 nd March	Parents' Evening Year 9 Only
31 st March	Close of Term 4 / Non-Uniform Day – Stars Appeal DofE Silver and Gold Practice Expedition
17 th April	Term 5 commences

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Moore
Headteacher