



**HEADTEACHER:**

Ms K. Littledyke | BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the first half term comes to an end, I would like to bring you up to date with what has been happening within the school community and to let you know of events that will be taking place in the lead up to Christmas.

At the beginning of September we were joined by the following new members of staff:

Teaching staff

Art/DT:	Miss Emma Burbidge
English:	Miss Liz Merry
Maths:	Mr Harry Appasawmy Mr Chris Moloney
Languages:	Mr Adrian Rushton
PE:	Miss Jacey Lee
Psychology:	Mrs Sarah Roberts
Science:	Mr Tom Broadbridge Mr Steven Pinniger
SEN:	Ms Jen Childs (SENDCo)

Support staff

Headteacher's PA:	Mrs Angela Bee
Caretaker:	Mr Rob Vickery

Our Year 7s have settled well and are approaching their daily learning and after school clubs with much enthusiasm! It is great to see, not just Year 7s, but so many of our students involved in our after school activities.

Parental involvement in the life of our school is absolutely essential for its ongoing success. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any information about how best to support your child/children – our pastoral team will be only too pleased to help. Should you have some free time and feel you could commit further to the life of our school, then our Parent-Teacher Association would be more than willing to welcome you. For further information, please email: [lporch@saltashcloud.net](mailto:lporch@saltashcloud.net) or [dwest@saltashcloud.net](mailto:dwest@saltashcloud.net)



### **Lost property:**

At the end of each half term lost property bins are emptied, bagged and dated. If students have not collected unnamed items within a full term, these will be distributed between the various charity shops within our community.

### **Attendance:**

#### ***Planning a holiday in school time? Here's what you need to know:***

If you are planning a holiday during term-time you must complete an Absence Request Form at least two weeks before the planned leave of absence. The form can be found on the school's website or can be collected from Reception or the Attendance Office.

Completed forms should be returned to school for the attention of Mrs Moss, the Attendance Manager. The absence request is then considered by the relevant parties and once a decision has been made, a letter is sent home.

If the request has been declined and the holiday is still taken, this will result in an unauthorised absence. This could also lead to school requesting a penalty notice be issued by Cornwall County Council. The details of a penalty notice are as follows:

**Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued when parents take students out of school for a period of absence without informing the school or parents take students out of school even though the school has received a request for absence and it has been deemed as unauthorised.**

Fixed Penalty Notices are not issued without serious consideration. On 1 September 2013 the Education (Penalty Notice) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into effect. The procedures for Fixed Penalty Notices remain the same but the details of the changes are as follows:

- The fine to be paid is £60.00 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120.00 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days;
- If payment is not made the matter may proceed to court;
- Penalty notices will be issued for unauthorised absence whether an Absence Request Form has been completed or not. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to provide medical evidence for a period of absence due to illness. We will not issue Fixed Penalty Notices unless we feel they are appropriate under the individual circumstances. Should you require any clarification, please contact Mrs Moss, smoss@saltashcloud.net in the first instance.

Geoff Barton, the General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders recently said 'We understand that family holidays are expensive during peak periods but taking children out of school during term time disrupts their education and adds to the workload of teachers who then have to help them catch up. If everybody did this it would be an unmanageable free-for-all'.

Paul Whiteman, General Secretary of School Leaders' Union NAHT said 'It is important that children miss as little time at school as possible. The cumulative effect of missed days can be harmful to children's education. The best way to ensure children are learning and progressing is for them to attend school during term time'.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Saltash Community School goes green:**

To kick start this academic year, we have donated various food items to The Real Junk Food Project who use food discarded by supermarkets. The organisation uses the food to provide catering at a number of local groups and regularly provides a buffet at Saltash Wesley Methodist Church for anyone to enjoy.

This is our first action to show commitment to the Cornish Schools' Green Charter. This was followed by a whole day focusing on environmental issues and global warming.



### **Promoting Positive Mental Wellbeing:**

Students have been taking part in a wide range of wellbeing activities as part of their morning tutorial programme. Each week, students participate in structured activities to develop their character and resilience. Sessions range from yoga to animal therapy, from dance to de-stress techniques.

The wellbeing mornings are an extension to the school support services. For example, the school has a morning triage system which consists of local volunteer youth workers who offer advice to students who may need support.

All students chose from a selection of wellbeing activities on offer and take part in the session once a week. Other mornings include sessions on building Character, assemblies focussing on British Values as well as learning activities to develop numeracy and literacy.

Our vision for this academic year is to **Raise Expectations of Ourselves and Others** as we continue to develop our TEAM ethos, achieving more together. There are many ways that we are doing this, but common to all lessons will be the following key strategies:

### No Opt Out



This year we are challenging all our learners to turn 'I don't know' into success. This includes ensuring all students respond to the feedback teachers give them in their books to help them move forward with their learning.

### Right is Right



We are also working hard to ensure students provide as full and detailed answers as possible. Teachers are also modelling what 'perfect' answers are like, so that all students know what excellence looks like.

### Stretch It



We are pushing your child to be the best they can be, building on their success at Primary school, completing tough challenges so that they can feel a real sense of achievement and pride.

### Format Matters



We are also focusing on developing both oracy and literacy skills. One aspect of this is encouraging students to use Standard English when it is required, in order that they can effectively communicate their ideas.

### Without Apology



We know that some aspects of work seem tough, but we are proud to have high academic standards and rigorous classroom expectations.

We had a magnificent uplift in our exam results last summer with many subjects performing above the National Average (Art, English, PE, Psychology, Science and Sociology); we are aiming even higher this year.

### Sixth Form Open Evening:

This is an exciting time to be considering entry to the Sixth Form at Saltash Community School. For many years we have had an excellent reputation for our A Level studies and Ofsted judged our provision to be 'Good' last May. To find out more, please do come along to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm in the Main Hall. Head of Sixth Form, Mr Adam Killeya, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Ms Childs and subject leaders will be on hand to discuss subjects in more detail and answer any questions you may have about post-16 courses and progression into Higher Education post-18.

### School Uniform:

At Saltash Community School our expectations are that all students are in full correct uniform at all times and we would like to thank you for your continued support with this.

- Black blazer embroidered with school logo
- Standard blue school shirt (short or long sleeved)
- Tailored black school trousers/knee length tailored black skirt/shorts
- Clip on school tie
- Black or white socks. Black or flesh coloured tights
- Standard (polishable) flat heeled all black leather style shoes, with covered heels and toes.

### Homework at Saltash Community School:

We are pleased to be able to share with you our whole school approach to homework at Key Stage 3. Your child has been provided with a set of revision materials in a 'Knowledge Organiser' booklet. These booklets will be issued three times across the year, with organisers updated to match the content delivered in each term. Students will be expected to use their Knowledge Organisers for home learning.

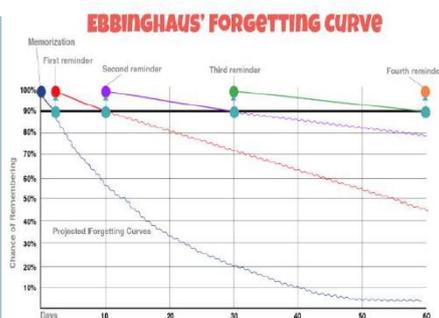
The Knowledge Organiser booklet contains the core information your child needs to be successful within each subject. Students will be given small, regular quizzes to check that they have been revising this content. In addition, there has been guidance to all our students on, 'how to revise' on our Steps to Success day at the beginning of term, this will be revisited again every term.



## How to use your 'Knowledge Organiser'

### Metacognition techniques

- When we first learn something, we easily forget it
- When we revisit something we've learned repeatedly, we remember it better
- This is shown in the Ebbinghaus Forgetting Curve



- Using the 'Knowledge Organiser' on a daily basis will help your child remember important information to support their learning and ultimately their ability to recall information when needed.



## Key methods to use the 'Knowledge Organisers'.

<b>Make them into a quiz...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create multiple choice questions</li><li>• Create a bank of questions based on topics</li><li>• Get family/friends to test you</li></ul>	<b>Draw pictures / create a story board –</b> particularly useful for History and English Lit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This helps if you need to remember a timeline or story.</li></ul>
<b>Flash Cards:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key theory can be divided into sections /modules.</li><li>• Can be used to quiz key concepts</li><li>• Key vocabulary and spellings</li></ul>	<b>Mind maps / List key vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mind map and create connections with theory (you could add a picture to help)</li></ul>

Need to Know

In addition to the Knowledge Organisers students will have additional homework set to support their learning. All students at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 should be revising from their Knowledge Organiser for a minimum of 30 minutes per subject per week.

In Key Stages 4 and 5, homework will be set to support students' ability to recall information and apply their knowledge through exam questions. Students may be asked to conduct pre-learning and be expected to show that within the next lesson.

Thank you for your support.

Reference:

<https://examstudyexpert.com/ebbinghaus-forgetting-curve/>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/meta-cognition-and-self-regulation/>

### **SIMS In Touch:**

Following our return on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October we will be endeavouring to communicate to parents and carers using SIMS In Touch. As previously requested it is **essential** that we have an up to date email address so ensure that you do not miss any messages. So please make sure that you have registered and are using the SIMS Parent App to update contact details.

### **Foodbank Vouchers:**

In an emergency situation you can go straight to the Foodbank and emergency packs are available.

Foodbank Vouchers can be obtained from Citizen's Advice Bureau or Saltash Family Hub.

CAB is open 10am to 12pm on Fridays; SFH is open 9am to 5pm weekdays.

The Foodbank is open Monday and Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm and Friday 11am to 1pm, it is situated behind the CAB building (turn left at Boots and it is in the car park on the right).

School does have a limited number of Foodbank vouchers. Please contact the school for more information.

