

## 6 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been really wonderful to see all of our students in school again, looking so smart in their school uniform and being ready to start their learning journey this year.

We have had three exceptional services this week; one for staff held at Faith Space on Prewett Street, and one for Year 7 and one for Years 8-11, both held at St Mary Redcliffe Church. The services have set the tone for the year. I am pleased to see that 3796 Alive Points have been issued this week as of Friday morning!

Please note that we have our Meet the Tutor sessions on Thursday 12 September. Please refer to the information that has been shared. This information will also be available on the SMRT website in the Parents and Carers area (Letters to Parents/Carers (Term 1)).

Students have been able to experience the extensive work done to refurbish and reconfigure the Lower Dining Hall. This work alongside the additional till will improve the efficiency of service during lunchtime.



Sixth Form students and visitors are now arriving through the reconfigured Sixth Form building entrance lobby. This work has enabled us to offer a more accessible and welcoming entrance to our Sixth Form which has approximately 700 students. The improvements have also enhanced our robust safeguarding procedures.



Student also might have seen our new Apple hardware in Music and Art/Photography classrooms (we are awaiting delivery of the Apple keyboards).



Thank you for having taken the time to read the letter I sent to all parents and carers on 30 August, and which is now available on the SMRT website, and for sending your child/ren back to school ready to learn.

They will have been given their new student planner to support them in being organised and punctual to lessons. The planner is designed to support their independence and wellbeing. Heads of Year and Tutors, supported by Mr Hare (Assistant Headteacher), will be instrumental in helping you and your child get the most out of the planners. We suggest asking your child to show you their planner and talk to them about how they are using it.

Please remember that you can contact your child/ren's Tutor if you have any concerns or need support, e.g. if your child is experiencing a level of anxiety that is affecting their attendance at school. Please view our attendance page [here](#) for more information. Please do contact us as soon as any issues arise, so that we can support in the context of the new school attendance legislation that came into effect on 19 August 2024. The two documents below from Bristol City Council summarise the **same** changes in different formats:

[Absence information for September 2024](#)  
[Attendance information for September 2024](#)

Do remember that you can also contact our Safeguarding Team via [safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk) if you have any particular concerns about your child's wellbeing.

We have made reference to the circumstances around the far right riots which took place around the country at the end of July and in early August to Years 8-11. As I explained in my August letter, we need to make time (at an appropriate time) to have meaningful conversations with our students in an appropriate manner. We must let our young people talk about how what they have seen and experienced has affected them, and the way they see themselves and their place in our society and the future of our country.

As a school we will utilise expertise within the school, our Alive Curriculum, and the external resources available to us, to reflect and plan meaningful discussion. It is important that through their lessons and the wider experiences we offer, we continue to equip our young people to:

- Be critical consumers of the information they come across online.
- Be literate, articulate, and numerate.
- Secure the skills and qualifications to have a plausible stake in the economic prosperity of our country.
- Understand people and communities very different to their own and have an empathy for those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

Regards



Del Planter  
Headteacher