

Date: 20|12|2023

Dear parents and carers,

Re: End of Autumn term and arrangements for January 2024

As we end a long and busy Autumn term, I would like to start by congratulating all our students, from EYFS to Year 13, for their hard work and dedication to their learning this term. Since September, we have had the opportunity to see and celebrate so many of our students' achievements, with external visitors (for our QAR in November) also witnessing their fantastic attitudes to learning and the brilliant work the school is doing to help them achieve their very best.

As always, this could not be possible without the dedication of our fantastic staff who work tirelessly to ensure our young people are well supported and able to achieve their very best. I also take this opportunity to express my thanks to you, parents and carers, for your support and everything you are doing to ensure your child is set up and ready each day to do their best at school.

As we close 2023, we can reflect on fantastic assessment and exam results, brilliant destinations for our former Year 11 and Year 13 students, the remarkable growth and development of all our learners and the huge contribution so many of them make to the life of our school and wider community.

This year also saw the launch of our school shop. Having opened in April 2023, with the aim of reducing the cost to parents for uniform and make it a non-profit project, we have been overwhelmed by the response. Since April the data shows that there have been:

- 2898 orders placed and delivered
- 8701 individual items of clothing sold
- Cost saving example: we sell our secondary school blazers for half the price they used to cost under the previous supplier.

We are constantly reviewing our prices in comparison with other local schools, and we can confirm we are continuing to provide our families with the cheapest school uniform in the area. We are fully stocked for the rest of the academic year, and we have uniform orders in place for the next group of Year 7 students who will start in September 2024. We have a changing room so that students can try any items on. Secondary school student equipment is also available to buy from the shop from 8am onwards each day.

We have launched a pre-loved uniform section within the shop; these are items of uniform donated back to the school that are in good condition and, for a £1 charitable donation, are available during shop opening times to any families who would like them (all proceeds will go to the school's nominated charity of the year). Equally, if you would like to donate any items, please bring them to the school receptions or directly to the shop, thank you.

We continue to work with our parent council to gather feedback to further develop this provision, however we trust that the efficiency of the service and accessibility to purchasing, as well as improved prices, is proving beneficial to parents. My thanks to Ms Maxwell-Jones (School Business Lead), Ms Green, Ms Carter and Ms Wake, as well as Ms Dodd and Ms Gavilett, our secondary reception team, for their support in setting up and running the SRS Shop.

Start of term arrangements – January 2024

We return to school on **Monday 8th January at normal school times**. On this first day we will spend time in the morning lesson reminding students of school ways of working and enabling students time to think about their goals for the new year and the term ahead. There are some things we ask you to do to ensure a smooth start to the term:

- ensure your child is in **correct school uniform and footwear**. Correct school shoes (not boots or trainers) must be worn. Uniform can be **ordered online**: <https://www.srs-shop.co.uk/>
- **acrylic nails are not allowed in school** – please ensure these are removed by 8th January
- for secondary students, please ensure they have a **full set of equipment** (see student planner for equipment list)
- please top up your child's **Parent Pay** account for school lunches
- Please note the updates to our Behaviour policy applicable to secondary and Sixth Form students (as shared in last week's newsletter), namely:
 1. Relocation detentions will be sat on the same day as the relocation. This is in line with what other schools are doing, allows for more immediate consequences for poor behaviour in lesson and ensure every student can start the next school day afresh. In practice, most students have been doing this already and we are now just formalising this approach for consistency.
 2. Students who are late to school before 9am will continue to receive a 30-minute detention on the same day. However, to discourage severe lateness we are now introducing an increased sanction of a 1-hour detention on the same day for students who arrive after 9am. As ever, students who have evidence of medical/dentistry appointments will not receive late detentions.

Parents will be notified of detentions as usual through the Edulink app. If you do not yet have the Edulink app or are having technical issues with it, then please contact office@sydneyrussellschool.com

A reminder that students who have multiple detentions due to be sat at the same time should seek the advice of their Head of Year in advance about what to prioritise. Students will not be kept after 4pm for detentions and any remaining detentions will continue to roll over to the next school day.

Exciting news for 2024!

We have the **school production of Oliver** to look forward to! Tickets will be on sale from January through Parent Pay for performances on 19th, 20th and 21st March 2024 at 7pm each evening. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

You can find the **full list of key dates for the term ahead** at the end of this letter and on the website.

I know that, for many, this can be a difficult time of the year – particularly as we think of those who are no longer with us, or those whose health might be affecting them. I hope that, whatever the circumstances, you are able to benefit from some much-needed time for a change of pace, time with those close to you, and some relaxation ahead of the new year.

As ever, I hope not to have to disturb you during the holidays, but should there be any urgent update, this would be sent via Edulink, as well as updated on the website.

I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas, a relaxing holiday and every happiness for 2024.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Cross', with a stylized, cursive font.

Clare Cross

Principal

SRS calendar dates 2023-24 - Please note, additional events/dates may be added. Parents will be notified via the weekly newsletter, Edulink and email

Date	Event	Time	Venue
<i>Thursday 22nd December – Friday 5th January Christmas holiday</i>			
08 January	Start of term – normal school day times		
12 January	Primary Achievement Certificate Launch		
22 January	Y6 Mock SATS week	9.30-12	Primary site
25 January	Y7 Parents’ Evening	4.30-7pm	Secondary site
12 February	EYFS/KS1 “Book Look”	3.00-3.45	Primary Site
14 February	KS2 “Book Look”	3.00-3.45	Primary Site
15 February	Y11 Parents’ Evening (2)	4.30-7pm	Secondary site
<i>Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February Half term holiday</i>			
26 February	Return to school – normal school day times		
04 March	Careers week		
07 March	Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) – World Book Day		
11 March	Primary Parent Consultations begin (2 weeks)		Primary site
14 March	Y8 Parents’ Evening	4.30-7pm	Secondary site
19 March	SRS Musical Show – Oliver! - Night 1	7pm	Secondary site
20 March	SRS Musical Show – Oliver! - Night 2	7pm	Secondary site
21 March	SRS Musical Show – Oliver! - Night 3	7pm	Secondary site
	Y12 Parents’ Evening	4.30-7pm	Secondary site
	Y9 GCSE Subject Taster days begin		
28 March	Y9 Parents’ Evening (online – School Cloud)		Online
<i>Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April Easter holidays</i>			
15 April	Return to school – normal school day times		
16 April	Y9 GCSE Options Evening	4.30-7pm	Secondary site
19 April	Y9 GCSE Options deadline		
22 April	EYFS/KS1 “Book Look”	3.00-3.45	Primary Site
24 April	KS2 “Book Look”	3.00-3.45	Primary Site
25 April	Y10 Parents’ Evening	4.30-7pm	Secondary site
06 May	Bank holiday – school closed to all students		
07 May	Y6 SATs begin		
	GCSE & A Level examinations begin (exact dates tbc)		
22 May	Primary class photos		
<i>Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May Half term holiday</i>			
02 June	Y6 Residential trip (4 days)		
03 June	Return to school – normal school day times		
03 June	Y4 MTC screening (two-week window)		Primary site
10 June	Phonic Screening Week		

14 June	House Cup Results Day		
21 June	Y11 Prom (details tbc)		
28 June	Y13 Soirée (details tbc)		
01 July	Y10 A-Level Subject Taster days begin		
02 July	Summer Showcase	6-7.30pm	Secondary site
05 July	Inflatables Event TBC		Secondary site
08 July	Rewards trips begin		
12 July	Secondary Sports Day		Secondary site
12 July	Primary End of Year Reports to Parents	3.00pm	Primary site
15 July	School early closure (12pm primary, 12.30pm secondary) – staff training		
16 July	Primary Sports Day		Secondary site
17 July	Y6 Leavers' Party	4.00pm	Primary site
18 July	Ariston Awards Ceremony (by invitation)	6.30-8pm	Secondary site
19 July	End of term – school finishes at 12pm		
<i>Thursday 20th July – Friday 31st August 2024 Summer holiday</i>			

For 2024-25 term dates, please see the website.