



Headteacher
Mr James Down

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Dear Parents,

As another term comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to update you on what's been happening in school this spring term.

There have been so many fantastic events run in school and I want to thank all students who have participated in these and the staff who have run them. We celebrate as many of the events happening in school through our FaceBook page. Please click on the following link to read about all the amazing things that have happened in school this term -
<https://www.facebook.com/stcmschooltorquay>

Whole School Escape Room Challenge

This week, all students have had an opportunity to participate in an Escape Room Challenge during Collective Worship. This activity was organised by Rev Nathan and our Chaplaincy Ambassadors. Well done to all tutor groups for their excellent participation. Every student in school has gone home with an Easter egg today, so that's over 1000 Easter eggs given out by the Chaplaincy Team. Great leadership from all students involved.

Easter Services

Today, the whole school attended our Easter Services, which for the first time have been organised completely by our student JUMP Team and Chaplaincy Ambassadors. Students did an amazing job and really helped the whole school community to enter into the liturgical season of Easter. Thanks to all students involved in leading these events.

Uniform/Equipment

It is important that students have the right equipment for learning and are in full school uniform. This shows us that they have a positive attitude to their learning and are taking learning seriously. It also prepares students for the world of work. Please can you ensure that any equipment and uniform issues are resolved over the Easter holiday so that students can fully participate in

learning over the summer term. Please visit the uniform section of our school website if you require any clarification about what is and isn't acceptable at STCM.

Over the course of this half term our Student Council have been reviewing our school uniform and have requested that students be allowed to wear tailored shorts in the summer term. Students have presented a number of options to me for consideration. I plan to make a decision on this request to add this additional item to our school uniform policy by the end of April. I'll write to parents to let them know the decision and give feedback to students too.

The Summer Term

The lighter evenings are a reminder that summer is not far away and I know that this is the time of year that staff and students particularly enjoy. While most of the school will be thinking about summer curriculum and enrichment activities, it is important to remember and keep in our prayers those students in Year 11 and Year 13 who will be sitting public exams this summer. We know that sitting GCSE, A-Level and Vocational examinations are tough and stressful times for young people but we hope that the hard work that students have been putting in and the support given by teachers will be reflected in their results this summer.

Spring Progress Checks

Spring Term Progress Checks are in the process of being emailed home to all parents. If you have not received your child's Progress Check then please contact our Exams and Data Officer Mrs McKee. Her email address is: denys.mckee@stcm.torbay.sch.uk

If you would like to discuss your child's progress check, then please contact your child's Tutor or Subject Teacher. For Year 7 parents there will be a chance to do this face to face at the Year 7 Parents' Evening on 25th April. Booking for this will open straight after Easter.

School Attendance

School attendance post pandemic has become a real problem nationally. More children are missing time off school than ever before. National attendance data and our own school attendance data is down on pre-pandemic levels. In September the government will be introducing tougher measures to tackle this issue. Our progress data shows that children who have more than 19 days of absence from school in any one year, are falling behind their peers quite significantly. This is really concerning because it means that they are likely to achieve lower grades in public examinations, have fewer opportunities in life and have a lower income. The summer term is a good time to reset as the weather is generally better and seasonal illnesses decrease. Please can you ensure that your child is in school regularly and you notify the Attendance Team if your child is

too unwell to attend or you are struggling to get them into school. The Attendance Team is here to help.

Academic Year Term Dates

Term dates have now been agreed for the academic years 2024/25 and 2025/26. These dates will be published on our school website. You can view these dates by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk/term-dates/>

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming all students back on **Monday 15th April** ready for the start of the summer term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Down
Headteacher