



# Principal's

UPDATE



**11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Dear parent

I hope that you enjoy reading the Christmas edition of the COAST magazine which will appear in your inbox later this week. It seems to have been a very long term and yet we are breaking for the festive season slightly earlier than previous years. These past few weeks have been extremely busy for students and staff alike with Year 11 assessments, attendance reward hot chocolate spectacular events and student representation at the National Oasis Student Voice weekend conference, amongst many other student experiences. This at the same time as both students and staff endeavouring to negotiate the growing building development on site.

I am also delighted to be welcoming our new Head of Art, Cheryl Selfe, to Team Sholing in January. She brings a wealth of experience to the school, and she is also looking forward to being the permanent tutor of 7AS.

It is a tradition for headteachers at this time of year also to request parental support with regards to student uniform and positive attitude. However, I also would like to recognise your support with regards to rewards and ensuring that your child attends regularly and on time, thank you. For many this period will be a time for reflection as well as celebration and before I add some brief comments, I would again like to say I hope you all are able to have a restful break and a happy new year.

## **Rewards**

I have been absolutely delighted by the number of positive points students have been receiving daily at Sholing. I really do hope that you are getting to grips with Class Charts and are enjoying seeing and hearing about all the great things your children are doing. On average there has been in excess of 10,000 positive points awarded each week, which equates to 2,000 a day; that is almost 2 points achieved daily by every student! As part of the Classcharts development we will be launching ClassCharts homework in January so parents can track live the homework set.

## **Student flu support**

Last week we hosted the annual flu programme administered by our local NHS Team. I am pleased to see that over 450 students had the nasal spray to support the fight against flu during the winter period.

### **Dates for diary**

During this week a reminder that as mentioned in our previous communication the academy will **close at 3pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** and **re-open for students on Wednesday 3rd January** as Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January is an INSET day. We will also be hosting our Christmas Jumper and school dinner day on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December as mentioned previously. Students will be allowed to attend in non-school uniform with a festive feel and in return we ask for donations to the Hub Pantry as the period over Christmas is perhaps the most challenging for some families and community in need. A reminder that students should still follow the school code of dress around jewellery and false nails, and not use ear pods, phones etc. On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December we will commence our lock-down walk through where students will have the process explained if the school was to go into a lockdown situation. The last day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December lessons will continue as normal with assemblies throughout the day.

### **Build update**

As you may have noticed at the front of the school the Sports Hall and Reception build is gaining momentum with the steel framework emerging. The final project has been delayed slightly; however, we have been informed that this should be completed by June 2024. Thankfully we have been able to finally complete the new food rooms refurbishment with students now able to benefit from the re-design.

### **Student and parent voice**

In the new year there will be a number of communications linked to parent and student voice. At present, for students we have a Parliament with whom I meet with every two weeks. The group consists of approximately 40 students who comment on proposed developments and raise issues relevant to their peer group. Recent items have included implementation of toilets for single gender, student communication regarding celebrating the work of the Parliament and student rewards. We also host a Parental Engagement Group which I am pleased to see is growing in numbers and again in the new year I will be contacting parents with outcomes of our meeting including increasing attendance, school uniform and homework.

### **Safer Routes to School Programme**

After successfully securing further funding from Active Travel England's Capability and Ambition Fund in March 2023, Southampton City Council has expanded their plans and are now able to include Oasis Academy Sholing in the scheme development phase of the programme. This is a really important step forward as we have campaigned for a number of years raising concerns with the Council regarding road safety especially around Middle Road.

Feedback on the safety of the roads around Oasis Academy Sholing from the school and local communities will enable them to develop a suitable scheme to consider putting forward for funding from Active Travel England to design and build it.

The Active Travel England funding has a focus on active travel, such as walking, wheeling, and cycling. Therefore, in addition to information about how you usually travel, SCC would like to hear about what improvements you feel would make the area around the school more attractive and safer for people travelling by these modes.

Students and staff will be surveyed this week however could I also ask parents to complete. The more responses that indicate concern around road safety in Middle Road the greater emphasis will be placed on action from Southampton City Council and Active Travel England. The survey is very

short and will take approximately 5 minutes and can be accessed at [soton.cc/SRTSurvey](https://soton.cc/SRTSurvey) or via the QR code:



The survey will close on **30th December 2023**, after which SCC will review the responses to contribute to the scheme development process.

## Uniform

Sholing is always striving for the highest standards and expectations of our students. Part of the high expectations we have is uniform. Occasionally after a holiday period we have a minority of students who return with incorrect uniform, such as, having fake eye lashes, acrylic nails or incorrect skirts (including length). These are not permitted as part of our school uniform policy.

I have included below a few reminders of what we expect at Sholing from our Localised Behaviour for Learning Policy found on our school website:

- Shirts should be tucked in at all times.
- Blazers should be worn at all times – unless in a lesson or in hot weather when the principal gives notice that blazers are not required.
- Outdoor clothing (coats, gilets etc) must not be worn in classrooms and must be removed before entry.

Should a student arrive in incorrect uniform, non-uniform items will be confiscated. If appropriate, parents will be contacted to bring the missing item into school, an item issued for them to borrow, or a 1-day pass may be provided. Similarly, should a student arrive wearing jewellery which is not permitted (outlined on our school website), they will be asked to remove it. Failure to remove will result in them being sent to the IER room until they comply. If uniform is not correct the next day students will be taken off timetable with their tutor.

Uniform and equipment checks will be routinely carried out by students' tutors. Students that persistently come to school without the correct equipment or incorrect uniform will receive a detention(s), be sent to the IER room and / or be placed on tutor report. The tutor and Head of Year will make the appropriate decision.

As a school we are asking for you to work alongside us to ensure that all children always see school as a place of learning; a place where they can mature into hard working young adults; a place that expects a lot of them and in turn supports them to be the best they can be.  
Best wishes.



Martin Brown  
Principal