

Friday 30 August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your loved ones have had a wonderful summer. We are really looking forward to welcoming all the students back at school next week and extend a warm welcome to our new Year 7s and their families.

We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about the following before we return:

### Arrangements for the first days back

We will be having a staggered start to next term, which will give our new Year 7s time to further familiarise themselves with the school. This will also provide a focused start for our new Year 11s.

The plan for our return to school is as follows:

Date	Activity	Time
Monday 2 September	Staff INSET day	All day
Tuesday 3 September	Years 7 and 11 come into school	<b>Year 7:</b> 8:35am to 3:00pm <b>Year 11:</b> 8:35am to 4:00pm
Wednesday 4 September	All year groups in school	<b>Year 7:</b> 8:35am to 3:00pm <b>Years 8 to 10:</b> 8:35am to 3:05pm <b>Year 11:</b> 8:35am to 4:00pm

### School uniform

We ask that all students return to school in full school uniform. At St Catherine's College, we believe that school uniform plays a vital role in fostering a positive learning environment and creating a sense of unity amongst our students. Uniforms eliminate the distractions of fashion trends and socioeconomic differences, allowing students to focus on their studies and personal growth. We believe uniforms promote equality, discipline, and a sense of belonging within our school community.

One element of the uniform policy that we would like to emphasise is the requirement to wear non-branded shoes. It is important to share our rationale behind this decision. Non-branded shoes ensure that our students are not judged or evaluated based on the type or cost of their footwear. By removing brand labels, we create a level playing field where every student can be appreciated for their character, talents, and contributions rather than their possessions. In addition, we understand that students may use the holiday period to apply false nails, eyelashes, and extra piercings. We would be very grateful if these could be removed before the first day of school. Please [click here for more detailed guidance](#) on uniform.

Our uniform suppliers, Price and Buckland, are offering free returns on all school uniform orders. To place your order, please click [here](#). If you have any worries or concerns over school uniform, please contact [admin@stcatherines.college](mailto:admin@stcatherines.college) so that we can help you before the start of the term.

We understand that some families may be struggling in the current climate, and we are determined that no child should be disadvantaged due to financial constraints. In light of this, if you feel that you may struggle financially with paying for school uniform, please contact [sbond@stcatherines.college](mailto:sbond@stcatherines.college).

If you have any uniform that you no longer require and would like to donate, we would be very grateful, as this supports other families within our community. Please could any uniform donations be dropped off at reception.

### Save the date – Open Evening Early Closure

St Catherine's College Open Evening for prospective families is taking place on Tuesday 10 September from 4.30pm. Our open evenings have proved to be hugely popular in the past, and we have attracted large numbers of visitors into the College. To prepare for the evening effectively, we will need to close the College at 12.30pm for all year groups. This early closure also allows our many student helpers to have adequate time for a break before the evening commences. More information about this event will be included in our start of term letter next week.

We really hope that you and your loved ones enjoy the last few days of the holidays. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

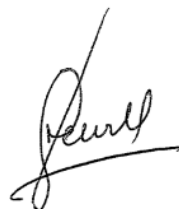
Yours faithfully



Solomon Berhane  
Headteacher



Sophie Thomas  
Head of School



Nigel Jewell  
Deputy Headteacher

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing"