



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome from the PE Department.

I hope your son/daughter enjoyed the summer holidays and is now looking forward to experiencing the sporting opportunities available during 2016/17 at St John's. The Physical Education Department offer a range of sporting activities both within the PE curriculum and also through an extensive extra-curricular sports programme. Sports offered include- Rugby Union, Football, Basketball, Swimming, Climbing, X-Country, Cricket, Athletics, Trampolining, Gymnastics, Fitness Training, Dodgeball, Netball, Hockey, Rowing, Chess, Rounders and Table Tennis.

### **Extra-Curricular Sports 2016-17**

The extra-curricular school sport focus for 2016-17 has been aligned with the BBC Olympic 'Get Inspired' campaign, aiming to get as many young people active regardless of fitness, ability or interest. Pupils will enjoy more recreational (pre/after school clubs) and competitive sports (House & School Sport) opportunities than ever before on a termly basis.

For team sports, training sessions and fixtures will be published in house and PE department areas. Fixtures will be arranged at the start of each term and individual team managers will inform selected students of the dates, venue and start/finish times. This information will also be available in the PE section of the new school website that is due to be launched in September 2016.

As with the last two school years, the expectation of pupils is that **if selected they must attend all training sessions and represent the school in fixtures/competitions for any sport**. If a pupil has any prior commitments that might affect attendance, a note must be written in the school diary and given to the teacher in charge at least 24 hours prior to the training/fixture. We would appreciate your support with this matter to further the recent successes of the students and PE department. Please also come along to fixtures and competitions throughout the year to support your son/daughter if at all possible.

To support the ongoing development of extra-curricular sport offered to students at St John's, external coaches will be introduced at most age groups this year. This will increase staffing capacity and allow students to access a greater number of training sessions and fixtures for sports such as rugby, football and netball.

There were a number of extra-curricular trips in 2015-16 to reward students for their commitment to sport and successes. Examples of which included a Lord's Cricket Trip to watch England vs. Pakistan and a Super league netball trip to watch the Hertfordshire Mavericks. These were both a great success and the PE Department will be looking to extend such opportunities to more sports in 2016-17. Please be aware that these trips sometimes require a minimal payment for transport costs that can be made using the school Parent Pay system or Pay Point. If your son/daughter requires their payment barcode or more information please speak to a member of reception staff.

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### **Physical Education Lessons**

An outline of your son/daughters PE lessons for the entire academic year is attached to this letter. As stated in page 19 of the school diary all pupils will require the full kit for all PE lessons. This is also applicable to GCSE, Sports Leaders, Duke of Edinburgh (practical) and Personal Development lessons. Students are also permitted to wear the school Adidas t-shirts during PE lessons if they have been purchased for one of the above courses.

**Please could you also ensure all equipment is clearly labelled with your son/daughters first initial and surname.**

Should any kit be mislaid please inform your son/daughter to see their PE teacher in the first instance before checking lost property in house areas.

If your son/daughter is unable to participate in any PE lesson please could you provide a note in the diary, addressed to their teacher, explaining the problem. This must be done on a week by week basis and students are still expected to wear full PE kit. This note should be shown to the relevant member of PE staff before entering the changing rooms at the start of the lesson.

During 2015/16, the school won district, county and national competitions in a variety of sports including rugby, gymnastics, table tennis, athletics and cricket. There have also been a number of students who have excelled playing their respective sports at club, district, county and national level.

This success is down to the dedication and commitment of the pupils, parents and school staff who give up their time to organise a vast range of sports fixtures and clubs that pupils have attended during this academic year. To reward these achievements there will be a Sports Presentation evening in term 6. We hope that you will be able to support your son/daughter if they are invited to attend the evening.

A recent Sport England report highlighted the positive effects of sport on education that included improved attainment, lower absenteeism and drop-out, and increased progression to higher education. It is my intention that St John's continues to provide a diverse and engaging sporting programme in 2016/17.

If you feel you can assist the Physical Education department or sponsor a particular school team please make contact, via the school office. Any support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr. R. Raye

(Head of Physical Education)

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