

Headteacher's Newsletter – June 2023

Quote of the year:

'Society is indeed a contract...not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are to be born. This is cathedral philosophy. The thinking behind the people who designed and built the great cathedrals, knowing that they would never live long enough to see them finished...we who start the building may not live long enough to see the conclusion.'

Charles Handy, Social philosopher (from The Age of Paradox)

Every decision we make in developing our school has a purpose that is centred upon the positive change that will come about in the furtherance of the core aims of the SS: To raise academic attainment and to ensure personal development across the spectrum. With this in mind, I would like to share with you some of the initiatives and developments that are directly related to our core business.

We have restructured our approach to leadership in the school. The Senior Leadership Team has a clear delineation of responsibilities as well as a vital role in leading educational change. With the appointments of Deputy Head of Curriculum, Assessment and Teaching and Learning and Deputy Head of Pastoral Care, we have incorporated key drivers in meeting our strategic goals. Along with these two positions, we have also appointed two Assistant Heads with specified roles and line management duties. In addition, there are now Subject Leads in post who will also be drivers in raising academic attainment in their areas and who will contribute to the broader improvements in teaching and learning. I am also delighted that we now have a Head of Year for every Year group. This is vital in developing the Pastoral Care provision for every individual student in the school with a view to monitoring and supporting their personal, academic and social development and skills.

For the new academic year, 2023-24, please see below *recent new appointments* in leadership:

New Senior Leaders:

Deputy Head Curriculum, Assessment and Teaching and Learning: Ms Eleni Kallitsi

Deputy Head Pastoral Care: Ms Eithne O'Riordan

Assistant Head - Key Stage 3 pastoral, Afternoon/extracurricular Activities: Ms Anne-Marie Theodorou

Assistant Head – Exams, CPD, Digital Literacy: Mr George Kaccoufa

New Middle Leaders:

Subject Lead – History/EPQ: Mr Alexis Antoniou

Subject Lead – Geography/GP: Ms Natalie Shaka

Subject Lead - Religious Studies: Ms Helen Kaccoufa

Subject Lead – Chemistry: Ms Georgia Papasavva

Subject Lead – Physics: Ms Filio Hartoutsiou

Subject Lead – Psychology: Ms Elena Andreou

Subject Lead – Drama: Ms Eleni Cosma

Subject Lead – Music: Ms Eirini Philippou

All of our new appointees will be fulfilling important roles and will have key performance indicators/Action Plans to enable them to remain focused on addressing the needs of the students and school as well as to monitor progress.

We have also appointed a new Timetabler to ensure an efficient use of our resources so that a fully functioning and easily updated schedule for the SS is in place. The new Timetabler is Mr Nick Paphitis.

In addition to the structural changes above a detailed Action Plan has been developed for the Senior School with a view to focusing on a range of areas, such as:

Quality assurance: Raising the quality of teaching and learning and, by extension, attainment across the school. This is our main priority.

Digital Literacy – A fully developed plan to enhance digital skills and a fuller use of digital resources

Curriculum review, with the aim of meeting the needs of all students and to ensure, for instance, the embedding of PSHE throughout all year groups in a structured and relevant framework that supports such areas as resilience, personal, social and study skills, adaptability and positive mindsets.

An enhanced **Careers and university application service**.

We will also be forging ahead with the implementation of a plan to launch **the Junior and Senior School Institute from September 2024**. This will not only meet the needs of the local community and our own students (through the provision of courses in English language, modern languages, creative subjects etc.), but will also raise the profile of the school more broadly.

We are in the process of establishing ourselves as a **registered centre for IELTS examinations** in collaboration with the British Council. We are, moreover, looking into becoming a registered test and course provision **centre for university entrance tests**.

The year has been long and extremely busy, but we are determined to remain focused on further building on the strengths of our school into the new academic year. And this is also reflected in our decision to invite an inspection from the **Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)** - <https://www.isi.net/inspections/bsc> - who will be spending a week at both the JS and SS in November 2024. Although this date may seem somewhat distant, the planning for the inspection begins immediately. The focus of such inspections will be on our compliance with a range of areas such as the quality of learning, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students, safeguarding, health and safety, suitability of staff, the quality of leadership and management. The ISI inspection team will be looking into every aspect of the life of the school and they will be talking to or getting input from not only staff and leadership, but also parents and students. This will be a full inspection so we will also be assessed according to the quality of two key themes: 1. Learning and Achievement and 2. Personal Development. This is also an opportunity to continue and reenergise our commitment to school improvement and to ensure we continue moving forwards on the road map that will raise levels of achievement along with the calibre of other student provision such as Pastoral Care.

Please note that as of September we will be adjusting the shape of the week for all students to be able to incorporate PSHE into the curriculum. On Mondays and Tuesdays, students arrive at 8.00 to be in class for their first lesson of the day at 8.05 – No Form Registration on these two days. Instead, PSHE and Assemblies will be scheduled after period 2.

On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, students arrive as usual at 8.00 to be in their Form rooms for 8.05 for Registration with their Form Tutor, as has been the case in the past.

The purpose of these adjustments is to enable regular contact with Forms and Form Tutors throughout the week as well as to ensure a personal, social, health programme (and assemblies) is delivered to all students that meets their needs and expectations.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend appreciation to all staff – teaching and non-teaching – for their unfailing dedication to the work they put in to support every student. There are countless instances of colleagues who have gone above and beyond in support of their students from day one.

Many, many thanks also to the Senior School Parents and Guardians Association who have been active in a range of activities such as the annual school photographs, the organisation of a number of seminars and talks for parents, support for school events and other noteworthy initiatives such as the huge effort in baking Valentines Day Cookies and the time and energy expended in decorating the school for Christmas. Well done, SSPGA!

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to the Board of Governors for their support and the trust they have shown. This has been vital in assisting us in driving positive change in the school.

This Newsletter will return in September with lots of news on events and activities in school. If you would like to catch up on the past academic year, you can find all the Newsletters here: <https://www.tjss.ac.cy/page/?title=Senior+School+Newsletters&pid=93>

Until then, wishing you and your families a restful and productive summer. We look forward to welcoming all of our students back in September, fully refreshed, all smartly turned out in proper school uniform (including plain black shoes, please!) and excited to get to work!

Yiannis Georgiou

Senior School Headteacher