



Newsletter #54

28th September 2018

Dear parents/students/teachers/governors/friends,
I am pleased to report that the Year 7 students have settled in quickly. Thanks to Mr Phanga, his team of tutors and the teachers for their efforts in the first month of school.

I hold a weekly meeting with the Senior Prefect Team and they are reporting excellent behaviour. There has yet to be a single prefect order meeting so far this term; long may this continue!

An hour ago I waved off the buses as they started their long journey to Kamuzu Academy for the first round of this year's sporting fixtures. PE will be in focus this week because next weekend the school hosts a visit from Dame Kelly Holmes, Olympic Gold Medal Winner!

This term we shall be sending out a number of short questionnaires. This week is a parent questionnaire on pastoral care at SAIntS. Please visit this link to

complete the survey which should take no more than 3 minutes to fill in.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYTLJST>

Or use this QR code



Kieron P. Smith, Head Teacher

Calendar Dates

OCTOBER

4th-5th	D of E Gold practice
5th-8th	Year 12 Mulanje Trip
7th 08:00-11:00	Fun run & netball tournament with Dame Kelly Holmes
11th-14th	Year 13 residential
11th-14th	Year 10-13 Arts Faculty Trip to Johannesburg

SAINTS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Following on from the success of the first ever SAIntS Model United Nations trip to Bishop Mackenzie in Lilongwe, a group of students decided that Model UN should become a regular afternoon activity. As a result, the first SAIntS Model UN group has been set up and meets every Monday, second hour, just after Mr Dockrell's Debating Society and at the same time as Mrs Grant's ALAMAU. Model UN being for juniors and intermediates gives some grounding for the senior trip to Johannesburg for African Union. For more information see Laaiqa A 10C or Mr Wilkinson.

Here is the group about to debate Democratic Republic of Congo's resolution on ending Child and Forced Marriages:



PTA CORNER

The newly constituted Executive Committee for the PTA met on Tuesday 25th September. Now 13 members strong we have begun plans for a parent event. Watch this space for more information.

Updates to our reporting system

In order to streamline our reporting system and make our progress and target reports more accessible, we have made a few small changes to the way that our reports will look this year. We will tell you about any relevant changes and new developments in the newsletter before any reports are due to be sent home and in an accompanying letter with the report, where appropriate.

The first of these is to simplify the effort scoring system. We were finding that students were struggling to know what they had to do in order to improve their effort scores and that some of the categories were a little confusing. We have reduced the effort categories from 4 to 2; Class work and Homework and will now use words to indicate the level of effort that your child is demonstrating in these categories. The table below shows the new terminology and gives a description of what each level of effort would look like to a class teacher.

The new terms and descriptions are displayed in every class room around the school so that students can become used to working towards these standards.

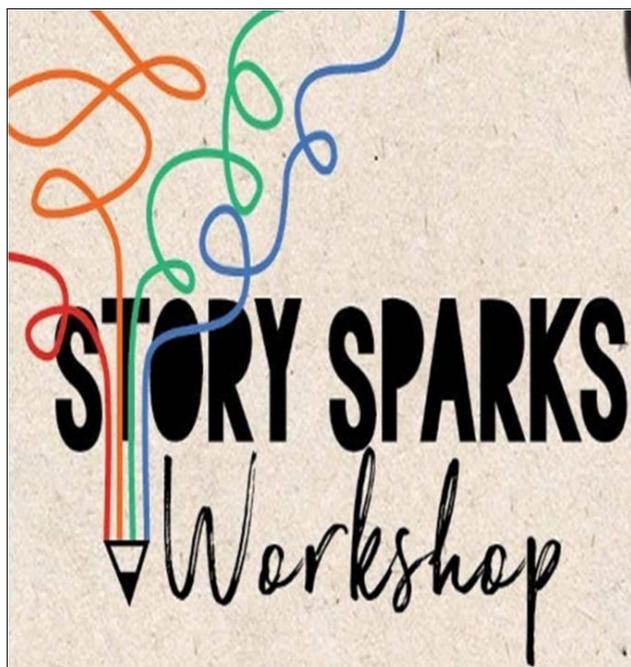
Dr S Harrison

Updated Effort descriptors for all student reports from September 2018

Class Work	Home Work
Exemplary	
Never late for lessons and is always ready to learn, with all of the correct books and equipment. Always committed, fully focused, attentive and cooperative. Always works to the best of their ability and through active engagement takes lesson content further. Often volunteers constructive contributions in class. Often shows initiative and helps fellow students to learn and staff to teach. Takes an active and appropriate part in all class activities.	Planner is used effectively by the student to understand when set work is due and to track when work has been completed. Completes all homework on time, frequently producing work of exceptional and exemplary quality, beyond the level of the set task, to their maximum ability.
Good	
Is rarely late for lessons. Always ready to learn, including having the correct books and equipment. Tries hard in lessons. Contributes to class/group discussion in a sensible way. Follows instructions willingly and thoroughly. Good levels of focus, attention and	Planner is used effectively by the student to understand when set work is due. Usually completes homework on time to a good standard, appropriate to ability.

cooperation in class. Positive and helpful in lessons	
Variable	
Is not consistent. Occasionally late for lessons. Usually willing and ready to learn but sometimes unprepared, e.g. forgetting books/equipment. Usually engages in the lesson but needs reminding to keep on task and rarely gives maximum effort. Behaviour can sometimes be disruptive, making it harder for students to learn and teachers to teach.	Is not consistent. Planner usually contains details about home work set, but can be rushed and/or has key information missing. Home work usually completed but not always on time. Evidence of work being rushed, lacking development and not reaching the standard of which the student is capable.
Poor	
Is regularly late for lessons, rarely has all of the equipment that they need for lessons, rarely engages in active learning in lessons, needs frequent reminders to stay on task. Often displays disruptive behaviour which prevents other students learning and the teacher teaching. Disrespectful towards other students and teacher.	Planner rarely used to record details about home work. Homework rarely completed on time or to the standard of which the student is capable.

Creative Writing Workshop



Are YOU a creative writer? Do you love the power of words? Mrs Miller is launching **Story Sparks** – an opportunity to fan the embers of your story into a flaming great narrative. Working alongside new writers, or picking up tips from experienced peers; you will learn in **Story Sparks** *why* the pen is mightier than the sword.

Come to **Story Sparks** on the first Tuesday of each month. Bring what you've written, or some imaginative ideas to work on. Meet Mrs Miller

in Room En1 at 12:45. For further information, speak to Mrs Miller or your English teacher.

HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

This term's History Essay Competition has been launched – the title is 'My History Hero'. The competition is open to all students, with History Future Stars expected to enter. We are looking for the most interesting, insightful and well-researched work into why someone (NB the word hero is gender neutral!) or something is your history hero – famous person, or a personal example. The bar was set quite high last academic year so we're looking forward to receiving your entries once again – deadline 7th December.



Hockey Fun



On Saturday 22nd September SAIntS hosted a social mixed hockey tournament. The event was for the senior players who were split into two mixed ability/gender teams.

Mr Chaura brought his development team to play and they were also split into two mixed ability/gender teams. The teams all played one another over a 2 hour period and were coached by the hockey academy coaches.



Great fun was had by all.

There will be two more senior fixtures on 13th October and 24th November. We are currently waiting for a proposal from the hockey academy for a hockey camp (open to all ages), which may take place on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th October. We will confirm this event closer to the time.

Swimming trials

On Friday 9th November there will be a night swimming gala in Lilongwe at BMIS. Trials for this event will be held on Friday 5th October. Those who are in Liyani will do their times during the Liyani sessions. Those who are not in Liyani will be able to do their times after Liyani (2pm – 3pm). We are looking at taking 4 swimmers only per age group per gender as there will be 4 other teams playing that weekend so bus space will be limited. The age groups are U13, U15, 15+ as from 1st September for this event.

Lunchtime Swimming

Mrs Gaunt is supervising lunchtime swimming from Monday – Thursday every week. This option is open to any students. It is not on a compulsory basis so students can drop in anytime.

A training session is provided every session but students may choose to do their own training program or can ask for help with various aspects of technique.

AFRICAN STUDIES PROJECT WINNERS - HISTORY

Being an international school in Africa and aiming to provide students with a holistic education, SAIntS introduced the theme of African Studies towards the end of last academic year, across a range of subjects. In their History lessons, Year 8 were tasked with producing projects looking at issues of culture, identity and the economic, social and political history of the continent.

Many students produced excellent African Studies project in their History lessons and it was difficult for Mr Dockrell and Mr Wilkinson to decide, but congratulations to the following students:

Special mentions to:

Amante M, Mikhail M, Victoria O and Joshua S.

Winners in each of last year's Yr8 History groups were:

8A – Nadia S and Karan K

8B – Ben H and Melissa M

8C – Jaylen H and Maahum A

8D – Atiyyah N and Sichella B

Well done all – the History Department was very impressed with the effort put in to almost all of the projects!

A Super exciting Sunday



On 7th October 2018, SAIntS will be organising a fun run and netball tournament with Dame Kelly Holmes. We are very excited about this day and can't wait to meet the 800m and 1500m Olympic (2004 Athens), Gold medal winner.

Dame Kelly Holmes will be in Malawi participating in the Orbis challenge (<http://www.orbis-expeditions.com/blog/dame-kelly-holmes-the-orbis-challenge-2018/>).

SAIntS students can be involved in this event by making up teams of 4 (mixed gender), and participating in the cross country relay which will begin at 8am. Each team will have to wear a team colour. Students need to let Mrs Gaunt know who will be in their team and what colour shirt they will be wearing. Please note that the run is for purely fun as the students will find out on the day.....

At 9:15am there will be a netball tournament, which is being organised by Mary Waya with her teams.

We would like to make Kelly and her Orbis team feel as welcome as possible and would gladly receive any donations of homemade cakes and snacks for refreshments on the day. Please email agaunt@saints.mw if you can help with a refreshments table from 8am – 11am on 7th October.

The Orbis organisers have requested that we limit the number of people on site during the event for security reasons. As such, the Fun Run is for SAIntS students ONLY. Parents may come to watch but we will not be able to allow entry for external people apart from those involved in the netball tournament.



Year 11 residential at Makwawa Scout Camp

Year 11 students got their examinations year off to a flying start last week with a teambuilding residential at Makwawa Scout Camp near Zomba. The focus for the year group and their tutors (Mr Mponda, Mr Wagner, Mr Chibwana and Mr Oulton) was on collaboration, leadership, problem solving, communication...and having fun.

After cooking and eating together, we spent the evening at the campfire. Students and their teachers camped overnight and awoke at sunrise to fantastic views from their campsite on the side of Zomba mountain all the way down to Lake Chirwa. Then followed a day of teambuilding activities – see pictures below.

Those students aiming to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's International Silver Award honed their campcraft skills and went off for a practice hike up the mountain with Mr Wagner, while Mrs Samanyika took a small group to nearby Domasi CCAP Mission to make a SAIntS Diamond anniversary donation to their nursery school children.

Having forged new memories, strengthened rapport and discovered new soft skills, Year 11s are perfectly poised for tough year ahead. Our only regret was that we couldn't stay longer!

