



Tomlinscote School

20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The academic year is coming to an end on Wednesday and what a year it has been once again! I have already outlined the key moments in the Newsletter, but I would like to say a few “thank you’s”:

- To the students who have adapted so well to all the measures in place at school to mitigate the Covid risks. They have persevered through the lockdown periods and so many have been on track through a difficult year.
- To my staff who creatively have had to completely change how they teach in school or learn new skills to manage online learning. To those who have tirelessly worked at creating a safe school and set up testing sites with very little DfE notice, and finally,
- To parents, who have had to manage learning at home and keep up the motivation. To those who helped out with our testing site and supported the school throughout the year.

I would now like to look forward to next year and it is my intention to have as much normality as possible in terms of the school environment and curricular structure. This means the following:

- There is no staggered start or end to the school day. All students MUST be on site for 8.30am and the end of the day will be at 3pm for everyone.
- All students must wear normal ‘winter’ uniform in September and bring their PE kit in a bag on their PE day.
- Catering areas will return as normal with a common breaktime for all students. However, there will be a staggered lunch break for different year groups.
- In the classrooms, students will not need to wipe down desks and teachers will no longer just teach from the front of the class.
- Students will not need to wear face masks.
- The Bee Hive and LRC will be open for all students from 8am and after school. Students can buy food and drink before and after school.
- Parents’ “Progress” Meetings will remain online next year, although a number of events will take place in school because some of our parents have not been in Tomlinscote yet!
- Year 8 students will no longer leave early on a Friday. We have created an extra period for PSHE during the week to meet an increasing requirement for PSHE education.
- Computing will be studied by KS3 students in September.
- We have created a “wellbeing” area for students near to the student reception and extended the number of counsellors available for students.
- This year, we reduced movement around the site with more double periods and tutor group classes in the lower school. From September, we will have setting in Maths and Science in Year 8 and Year 9.

The School Quality Improvement Plan has been written and approved by the School Academy Quality Council (AQC). Some of the key areas in this Plan focus on:

- The Catch-up Programme – over 110 students received external tutoring and this will continue.
- The Summer School – this will take place in August for some Year 6 students.
- Mental Health Plan – we have extended our counselling capability, trained staff in mental health first aid, created a wellbeing area and altered our PSHE programme. This is an important focus for next year.
- “Respecting everyone” – our most important PSHE theme next year is about “respecting all individuals”. This will consider the recent national report on sexual harassment in schools, consider racial discrimination and LGBTQ themes.
- A focus on looking after our environment – students will not be able to purchase single use drinks bottles in September and will need their own water bottle to bring to school.
- Our learning and teaching theme is considering “mastery” across the curriculum.

As we come to an end to the academic year, I can announce that Rowling won the House Trophy for 2020-21. All members of Rowling will receive a small prize in September. I hope you have enjoyed receiving the House Point notifications from Edulink in recent months. In the past week we have sent home approximately 600 letters praising students for excellent reports, for gaining the T5 Award and congratulation letters. I lost count of the number of e-postcards distributed during lockdown!

The end of the term is always a time of change. I am pleased that we are currently fully staffed for September and welcome back some staff from maternity. I am proud that all our newly qualified teachers have successfully passed and three of our trainee teachers are joining us permanently in September. Dr Hammond is also becoming a permanent member of the Senior Leadership Team for September.

The arrangements for the start of next term in September are as follows:

The DfE have informed us that students must complete lateral flow tests in school with one to occur before they start. I have included a separate document with the tutor group breakdown for each year group. Students can come down to the Sports Hall, have their test and then go home.

1 st September	Inset Day – school closed for students	Year 7 to come to school for their lateral flow test between 11am & 1.15pm
2 nd September	Inset Day – school closed for students	Year 9 to come to school for their lateral flow test between 9am & 11.15am Year 10 to come to school for their lateral flow test between 12 noon & 2.15pm
3 rd September	Year 7 Induction Day	Year 8 to come to school for their lateral flow test between 9am & 11.15am Year 11 to come to school for their lateral flow test between 12 noon & 2.15pm
6 th September	Year 7	In school for 8.30am, meet as pre-arranged with the mentors
	Year 8	In school for 8.30am - straight to form
	Year 9	In school for 8.30am - straight to form
	Year 10	In school for 9.30am - straight to form
	Year 11	In school for 9.30am - straight to form

A number of people will be purchasing new uniform or stationery in August for the start of the academic year. The winter uniform is worn in September and girls are allowed to wear opaque tights or yellow socks with the kilts all year round now. Please ensure the kilt reaches the knee because some girls have grown a lot taller and their kilts are now too short for school. At Tomlinscote, we are very clear with this expectation and need your support to ensure it is enforced. Students can wear black trousers with black socks if they wish to do so.

I do not wish to see any trainers being worn by students during the day in September. Our uniform rule is that students wear traditional black shoes. Some places sell branded trainer shoes – these are not acceptable for school as they are more like a trainer and often have brand marks on the outside. Please check this carefully and support us with this expectation.

In terms of pencil case equipment, please ensure your child starts off with the right equipment and this includes a green and purple pen.

I am going to highlight about nose piercings. Students are not allowed to have nose studs in any form at school so please do not allow the piercing to occur just before we return to school.

We would like to invite you to our Parents' Information Evenings that take place in September. These evenings are an opportunity to highlight the key events occurring throughout the year, provide important examination information and subject specific guidance.

13th September: Virtual Year 9, 10 and 11 Information Evening – 6pm-7pm.

14th September: Year 8 Information Evening – 7pm In the Main Hall for parents only

15th September: Year 7 Information Evening – 7pm In the Main Hall for parents only

I have also attached a letter from Mr Morren regarding changes that we are making concerning what can be accessed on the iPad during the school day. In September, we will also be launching an additional tool to support you having more control at home monitoring the iPad.

Finally, we thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very good summer holiday. The summer term ends on Wednesday 21st July, at 12.30pm.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Principal