



# Tomlinscote School

20th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The academic year is coming to an end on Friday and what a year it has been once again!

We started off mass testing in September 2021, and this continued with more in January and the distribution of many tests to use at home. This didn't stop the students who have shown great perseverance and determination throughout the year. For example, Year 11 started not knowing whether their assessment grades would be required for GCSE grades. They have kept working at a high level since September and fortunately they did sit their exams. I have been thoroughly impressed with this cohort of students and enjoyed seeing them have a great Prom experience recently. A few other stand-out moments for me were: - seeing our students perform in 'Shakespeare in Love' in November, all of our Year 10 students completing their work experience week (not an easy task!), seeing so many students taking part in clubs and the community spirit during the Open Evening and school tours period.

I would like to share some key points linked to our Quality Improvement Plan for this past year:

- *"The Respect Agenda" – This has been our main focus for the year - "respecting all individuals/kindness". So much work has been directed towards getting across the right messages with regards to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We have a lot of student survey data from several surveys on these themes and students have also been working with our external consultant on the theme of Equality. This will continue to be the key PSHE theme next year as well.*
- *The Catch-up Programme – In total we have provided 1552 hours of tutoring since September 2021. This is a superb number of hours and I am really pleased that we have been able to support so many students.*
- *KS2-KS3 transition work – We ran a summer school in 2021 and will do so again this summer. I am really proud of our collaborative work with several primary schools and in particular Frimley CofE.*
- *Mental Health Plan – We have extended our counselling capability, trained more staff in mental health first aid, created a wellbeing area and every Monday, Luna, a therapy dog, comes into school. This will remain an important focus for next year.*
- *Extracurricular improvements – I wanted to increase the opportunities for our students after school because I feel that it is important for them socially and physically. We increased provision by at least 50% each term and I am pleased that participation rates have also improved massively. Thank you for encouraging this with your child(ren).*
- *Careers education – We have managed to complete all the Gatsby benchmarks. This provision is excellent and thank you to all the parents who have supported us with presentations, workshops and work experience.*

Our learning and teaching theme is our priority and all 3 academies in The Prospect Trust have been focussing upon “mastery” across the curriculum. What does this mean to lessons? All teachers introduce new content/skills in small chunks. Whole class student understanding is checked straight afterwards using a variety of questioning techniques such as cold calling, no-opt out, say it again better, think pair share and use of iPads. Teachers will use more modelling and check for misunderstandings. All lessons will start with some form of learning recap activity. Retrieval-based activities will occur within lessons focusing on a mixture of long-term and short-term recall.

In order to train our staff further and to ensure consistency in the above learning and teaching themes, the school will close one period early on a different day each half term next year. These are the dates for 2022/23 and I will highlight them again in September.

- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March - we will finish at the end of period 5 (2.10pm)
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – we will start at period 2 (9.45am)
- One further session will be confirmed.

As we come to an end to the academic year, I can announce that **Attenborough** won the House Trophy for 2021-22. I hope you have enjoyed receiving the House Point notifications for your child(ren) from EduLink and we will continue to develop the House competitions next year. In the past week we have sent home hundreds of letters or certificates praising students for achieving fantastic external vocational grades, for gaining the T5 Award in Year 7 and for achieving Subject Awards or House Awards. This is in addition to seeing our students pick up awards at the Sports Awards Evening last week.

The end of the term is always a time of change. I am pleased that we have very little staff turnover again this year, however, Mr Frater has gained promotion to a position on the SLT at a school in Basingstoke. We wish him the very best and unfortunately, we have not been able to appoint a suitable Head of Music yet – we will continue to advertise this post. However, we have appointed Music teachers and this subject will be staffed. Currently we are fully staffed in all other teaching positions in the school for September but continue to seek Learning Support Assistants to join our team.

From September 2022, please note that Year 7s and Year 8s will finish at 14.05pm on Fridays. The arrangements for the start of next term in September are as follows:

<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	Inset Day – school closed for students	
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	Inset Day – school closed for students	
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Year 7 only in school  Some Year 11 students will have internal exams and will receive a separate letter	Year 7 should arrive by 8.30am and go straight to the main hall. They will leave at 3.00pm (normal time).  Year 11s with exams should register on the playground 10 mins beforehand and go home afterwards.
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Year 7	In school for 8.30am - meet as pre-arranged with the mentors
	Years 8-11	In school for 8.30am - straight to form rooms

Student timetables will be accessible on EduLink and on student iPad calendars on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Please be aware it may take a few hours to sync.

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 from September and students are allowed to wear opaque tights or yellow socks with the kilts all year round. **Please ensure the kilt reaches the knee because some students will have grown a lot taller over the holidays and their kilts may now be 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 or black school shorts with black socks if they wish to do so.

I do not want to see any trainers being worn by students during the day from 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.

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. This also applies to acrylic nails or gel nails.

We would like to invite you to our **Virtual Parents' Information Evenings on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 6-7pm**. These evenings are an opportunity to highlight the key events occurring throughout the year, provide important examination information and subject specific guidance. You will be emailed a link nearer the time in September.

Finally, we thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very good summer holiday. The summer term ends on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022, at 12.30pm.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major  
Principal