



Tomlinscote School

19th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

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

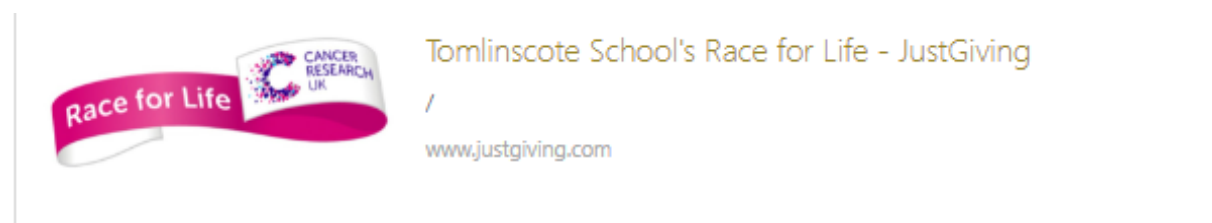
We started off the year with some fabulous GCSE results and record-breaking progress measures. Our students achieved approximately a third of a GCSE higher for every result, than students of the same prior attainment in other schools. I hope this upward trend continues because Year 11 were really focussed during the examination period. 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 "Rock of Ages" in November, watching our Year 7 Boys' football team in the District Cup Final and the recent awards evenings. We had 400+ students involved in our Open Evening and the student enthusiasm shone throughout the event.

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

- *"The Respect Agenda"* has continued to be a key priority for the year – respecting all individuals. So much work has continued to be directed towards getting the right messages with regards to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We have introduced our reporting system called a "Helping Hand" and we have recently been awarded the Gold LGBTQ+ Stonewall Award. It stated that -
"Your pupils clearly feel passionately about LGBTQ+ inclusion and their voices are taken seriously by your staff".
- The Tutoring programme – This year at Tomlinscote we have led 3000+ hours of additional tutoring. The total is quite amazing with 420 students benefitting from the opportunity, especially when so many schools have failed to engage with tutoring at all. In addition, staff delivered over 500 hours of additional support to targeted groups of students outside of the timetabled day.
- Extra curricular activities – We have had more students than ever getting involved in the wide range of activities. The provision will be expanded even more next year because I feel it is important for students physically and socially. All activities will start the week beginning 11th September 2023.
- Careers provision – I feel that our provision is "gold standard" and we have met all of our Gatsby benchmarks 100%. Thank you to all the parents who have supported us with presentations, workshops and work experience.
- Literacy provision – Our focus on improving literacy has meant that in Years 7 & 8 – there were 327 million words read, 9000 Accelerated Reader quizzes, 24 World Book Day sessions and 615 students supported. Our focus next year is on literacy within the curriculum.

I would like to highlight a big community event at Tomlinscote on Friday 15th September 2023. We are going to run a “Race for Life” event to raise money for Cancer Research UK. This is in memory of Elaine Myall, a member of staff who sadly passed away earlier this year. We have led a couple of “Race for Life” events in the past and it is the right time to do it again. Students will run, walk, hop, skip around the course at allocated times on the day. Here is the link if you would like to donate and to help us get to our target. Thank you.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/tomlinscotesraceforlife>



As mentioned in one of my earlier Newsletters, a reminder that from September 2023, there will be some changes to the school day.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

08.00	School site open
08.30	Students expected to be on site
08.35	Register/Assembly
08.55	End of Registration
15.10	End of the school day

Friday

As above except **all** students finish at the end of Period 5, i.e. at 14.15pm.

I expect the students on site at 8.30am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time every morning.

The start of the new academic year will be as follows:

Monday 4th September	Inset Day – school closed for students	
Tuesday 5th September	Year 7 only in school	Year 7 should arrive by 8.30am and go straight to the Main Hall. They will leave at 3.10pm (normal time)
Wednesday 6th September	Year 7	8.30am – students to go straight to Tutor room
	Years 8-11	8.30am – Year 8 – students go straight to the Main Hall 8.30am – Year 9 – students go straight to the Tutor room 9.30am – Year 10 students go to their Tutor room and their first lesson is Period 2 9.30am – Year 11 students go to their Tutor room and their first lesson is Period 2

Student timetables will be accessible on EduLink and on student iPad calendars on Monday 4th September 2023. 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.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to say a few public thank you's to some of my colleagues who are leaving Tomlinscote due to retirement, moving abroad or gaining promotion. A special 'Congratulations' to Bryan Lee, our Site Manager, who has been at Tomlinscote for a staggering 42 years. Bryan has been a superb colleague and has always put students first. He will be missed and I hope he enjoys his retirement! Congratulations to Rachel Bennett and Tom Regan who have gained promotion as Assistant Headteachers in other secondary schools. I would like to thank Nikky Hammond, who is leaving and will be relocating to the South West. Nikky has been at Tomlinscote for 9 years and a valuable member of my senior leadership team. Her work organising catch up tutoring and with disadvantaged students has been brilliant. I am pleased to announce that Paul Henry has been appointed as our new member of the SLT and Ethan Field will replace him as Head of Year 9 (working with Helen Ellis when she returns from maternity leave).

We would like to invite you to our **Parents' Information Evenings** which will be held in the **Main Hall** and will last for approx. 1 hour. These evenings are just for parents/carers and provide an opportunity to highlight the key events occurring throughout the year, important examination information and subject specific guidance. Please see the timetable below for the relevant year group:

Date	Year Group	Time
Monday 11 th September 2023	8	5.30pm
	9	7.00pm
Tuesday 12 th September 2023	10	5.30pm
	11	7.00pm
Monday 18 th September 2023	7	6.00pm

Parental Forum – The Tomlinscote School Parental Forum meets three times per academic year to share views and ideas on numerous topics pertinent to the school. The items for discussion are circulated to Parents/Carers before each session and all Parents/Carers are welcome. The dates for 2023-24 are: Monday 13th November 2023, Monday 26th February 2024, Monday 10th June 2024. All sessions will be in the Main Hall, 7pm-8pm.

Finally, we thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very good summer holiday. The summer term ends on Friday 21st July 2023, at 12.30pm.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Principal