



# Tomlinscote School

11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The Autumn term is coming to an end and I believe that the students and staff are looking forward to having a good break for a couple of weeks. There has been quite a bit of illness from flu recently, so I hope that everyone manages to remain in good health during the holiday.

This term is always a busy one and on reflection, I believe it has been a very successful one. In September, we changed our Behaviour Policy following discussion with students, staff and parents. The general feedback from students is that the changes have created more clarity regarding the school expectations and staff feel that our processes have been tightened up, which leads to better consistency. I walk the school every day and the behaviour for learning in the classroom is excellent and a calm, working atmosphere always exists. As you know from previous letters, I enjoy "catching students being good" and this is a mantra I quote to my staff. I am pleased that the number of House points continues to be so high and currently stands at 247,788 since September and 3,984 digital postcards have also been sent home. Over 200 Year 7 students have recently received praise letters for extremely positive reports and I know that 150 more will be sent out next week for Year 10.

I have been really proud of the students and how they have contributed so positively to our Tomlinscote community. Many students come to school with great attendance, do the right thing every day, try as hard as they can and quietly get on with school life with little fuss. Fortunately, this is most of our students!

For me there are a few stand out moments this term:

I was very impressed with our Year 9 students who led the Charity Fair in November. They managed to raise £1535 for our 5 local charities.

I was extremely pleased with the 130 Year 9 students who went on the Battlefields Trip in November. They were respectful when needed to be in the cemeteries and I hope they gained a lot from the experience. The other residential trip this term was a very successful Spanish Exchange. Furthermore, we have had 4 STEM related day trips, 3 theatre trips and 4 other day trips for different students. I was particularly pleased that we were able to take our Young Carers out to a pantomime.

The Year 6 Open Evening was a great success and our students were great ambassadors. It has resulted in a fantastic number of applications to join the school and I am pleased that Tomlinscote remains an oversubscribed school.

(continued)

The staff have been raising money for the British Heart Foundation through various coffee mornings. This is following the tragic death of our colleague and friend, Mr Foley, who passed away in September. It hasn't been an easy term for a number of colleagues who knew him well over the past 26 years.

Next week:

We have our Assessment Day on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December when the school is closed.

Every day, students can wear a Christmas jumper / hat if they would like to. They can even take part in the Christmas karaoke in the Bee Hive at break and lunch!

Everyone is welcome to join the School Music Concert on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7pm in the Main Hall.

The Autumn term ends on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 12.30.

Key dates in January 2026:

- The Spring Term starts on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (normal start time for all students - 8.30am).
- 9<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 reports home and Year 11 mock results handed out
- 15<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Progress meetings – in school
- 19<sup>th</sup> January – Year 10 Work Experience evening
- 20<sup>th</sup> January – Year 9 Options evening

I would like to give you a quick update on the Principal recruitment process. The Prospect Trust have put a new advert out for a new Principal this week and interviews will take place in February 2026. As soon as a new person has been appointed, the information will be shared with the whole Tomlinscote community. You are aware that I agreed to continue as Principal until August 2026 on a part time basis from March 2026 and I have a sabbatical for a period of time in the Spring Term. My colleague, Charlotte Harrison, will be Associate Principal, for the periods of time when I am not in school. Charlotte has previously been a Headteacher at a school in London and was acting Vice Principal at Tomlinscote for a 6-month period in 2024.

I hope that everyone has a lovely Christmas and a great New Year!

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major  
Principal