



# Tomlinscote School Newsletter

5th June  
2026



Dear parents & carers,

I hope that everyone had a lovely half term in the sun and that it gave the Year 11 students a brief breathing space from the demands of GCSE examinations.

We had a staff INSET day on Tuesday and this was totally focused upon lesson planning and curriculum development. It had a real focus upon our inclusion philosophy so that we are meeting the increasingly diverse and complex needs of our students. The INSET day provided an opportunity for my staff to consider Curriculum intent for each subject area, a chance to review the current curriculum content and the sequencing of topics within the curriculum.

I know that some parents are keen to know what is currently being taught in each subject in each year group. That information is always on our website and can be accessed by clicking on the links below.

[Curriculum overview](#)

[Subject Information](#)

Please see [Pg 3](#) for a reminder of our school detention system to ensure clarity between school and home.

Congratulations to our students who completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition assessment this week—more details will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Following on from a significant number of tragedies associated with open water swimming this half term we want to extend our sympathies to the family, friends and community of the young man affected close to here. We also want to ensure that your children are fully aware of the risks associated with open water and have included some important water safety information on [Pg 2](#). Please do go through this with your children as a priority.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Mr Major

## Key Dates

**Friday 12th June 2026**  
Year 8 report sent home

**Monday 15th -  
Friday 19th June 2026**  
Year 10 Work Experience week  
Year 8 residential trips to  
Germany, France and Spain

**Tuesday 23rd June 2026**  
Sports Day

**Wednesday 24th June 2026**  
Year 6 Transition Evening  
6.15pm - 8.15pm  
Main Hall

**Thursday 25th June 2026**  
Art & Photography Exhibition  
4pm - 6pm  
Top floor, R block

**Friday 26th June 2026**  
Year 7 reports sent home

# Important Safety Message:

## Open Water Risks During Summer

As we enter the warmer summer months, we would like to highlight an important safety concern regarding young people accessing open water sites such as rivers, lakes, canals, and quarries.

Locally to Surrey and Hampshire and across the wider UK, there have recently been reports in the news of serious—and tragically, sometimes fatal—incidents involving young people swimming or entering open water. Surrey and Hampshire Police and Fire and Rescue Service have also issued repeated warnings in recent years about the dangers of open water, particularly during periods of hot weather when these locations become more appealing.

Locally, we are aware that areas around Frimley, including Tomlins Pond, Hawley Lake, The Basingstoke Canal, Lightwater Country Park Ponds as well as other nearby lakes and rural or disused quarry sites, are sometimes used by young people to meet friends and swim in the water. While these places may appear harmless or even popular on social media, they present very real and serious risks.

These include:

- **Cold water shock** – even in summer, water temperatures can cause immediate breathing difficulties and panic
- **Hidden hazards** – such as submerged debris, rocks, or sharp objects
- **Strong currents or sudden drops in depth**, particularly in rivers like the River Marden
- **Very deep, cold water in quarries**, often with limited visibility and hidden dangers
- **Steep or slippery sides**, making it difficult to get out once in the water
- **Poor water quality**, which can pose health risks

The police have recently highlighted the role of **peer pressure and social media** in influencing risky behaviour. We know that secondary-aged students may be:

- Encouraged to take part in dares or challenges
- Filming or sharing videos for social media
- Feeling pressure to “join in” with friends
- Underestimating the dangers because “others are doing it”

To support our students, we will be delivering assemblies and/or a dedicated water safety lesson to all year groups this term. This session will focus not only on the physical dangers of open water, but also on decision-making, resisting peer pressure, and understanding how quickly situations can become life-threatening.

We would strongly encourage you to reinforce these key messages at home:

- Open water (rivers, lakes, quarries) is **not safe for swimming**
- It only takes seconds for something to go wrong
- Never enter water due to dares, pressure, or for social media
- Stay with friends but **look out for each other and speak up if something feels unsafe**

In an emergency, **call 999 and ask for Fire & Rescue (for inland water incidents)**

For further information and advice, please visit:

- **Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK):** <https://www.rlss.org.uk>
- **RNLI Water Safety Advice:** <https://rnli.org/safety>
- **Canal & River Trust – Stay Safe Near Water:** <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety>
- **National Water Safety Forum:** <https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk>

By working together, we can help our young people make safer choices and prevent avoidable tragedies.

# Reminder of Detention Policy

There are only 2 types of detention issued at Tomlinscote which are summarised in the table below:

Type of detention	When does it take place	Duration	Location	Escalation if missed
Late to school detention (before 9am)	Same day - Morning breaktime	10 minutes	T1	45-minute detention
After school detention	Next day - After school	45 minutes	Year group room	Internal Suspension

After school detentions are issued if (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- a student is late to school arriving after 9am
- a student is late to any lesson
- for a uniform violation
- for chewing gum
- for dropping litter
- for poor behaviour at social or movement times
- or if a student is 'removed' from a lesson following a reset

Failure to attend a detention will result in referral to the Internal Suspension Room the following day. Should a student receive a second detention in a day, this will result in a referral to the Internal Suspension Room.

In all cases, parents/carers will receive notice of a detention by a message through EduLink by the member of staff who has given the detention. There will be notification 24 hours in advance. If a student does not attend a detention, then the parents/carers will be informed through EduLink and the student will be placed in the internal suspension room on the next school day.

The school will only reschedule a detention for a student that has a medical appointment at the time of the detention; evidence of the appointment should be forwarded to the behaviour manager, who will liaise with the family and student.

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## Online Safety:

### Resources about online hate and misogyny on the 'Kids Online Safety' website

The Department of Education (DfE) together with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), have published new resources on the ['Kids Online Safety' website](#) to help parents and carers understand and get support dealing with online misogyny.

This [new section](#) is designed to help families and give more confidence in talking to your children about what they're doing and experiencing online.

The updated content includes:

- what misogyny is
- why you should talk to your child about misogyny
- spotting the signs of misogyny
- how you can support your son or daughter

The site continues to link to trusted charities and expert organisations where families can find specialist support, including helplines and further advice.

Please do have a look to support any conversations with your children at home.

# Important Changes to Free School Meals

## Effective from September 2026

The Government is introducing major national changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. For many of our families, this is excellent news that means you may qualify for support for the very first time!

Please review the updates below to see how these changes affect your household as we prepare for the upcoming academic year.

### The Good News: Universal Credit Expansion

Starting September 2026, the national income threshold for families on Universal Credit is being completely removed.

**What this means:** If your household receives Universal Credit—regardless of what your total earnings are—your child will now automatically qualify for a Free School Meal.

Under the new national rules, support will be split into two distinct categories:

- **Targeted FSM:** For families on Universal Credit earning £7,400 or less per year. This includes a daily free meal plus the school will receive additional funding known as Pupil Premium which is used to support with purchasing school uniform, equipment, revision guides and overcoming other barriers to education.
- **Expanded FSM:** A brand-new category for families on Universal Credit who earn above £7,400. Your child will be fully entitled to a free school meal every single day.

### End of "Transitional Protection" (July 2026)

Since 2018, a temporary rule called "Transitional Protection" ensured that if a child qualified for free meals once, they kept them even if family earnings went up.

- **The Deadline:** This blanket protection officially ends in July 2026.
- **The Impact:** From September 2026 onward, all children must actively meet the eligibility criteria to continue receiving free meals. If your household circumstances have changed and you no longer receive Universal Credit or any qualifying legacy benefits, your child's current free meal entitlement will stop at the end of July.

*(Please note: Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 will still automatically receive their standard universal infant school meals; however, if you meet the Targeted FSM criteria above, registering is still vital as it secures the extra Pupil Premium funding to support your child's education.)*

### How Applications and Eligibility Checks Will Work

To ensure that no child misses out on a healthy school lunch, we will be running eligibility checks behind the scenes using our local authority checking service. To run these checks accurately, the school requires a current home address, correct legal name, and National Insurance number.

- **If you are already registered:** Surrey County Council and our school team will automatically re-check your details using the information we already have on file. If we require any updated information or proof of benefits from you, we will reach out to you directly.
- **If you are on legacy benefits:** If you currently qualify via older benefits (such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, or Child Tax Credit) and your circumstances haven't changed, your standard eligibility remains protected.
- **If you receive Universal Credit but didn't qualify before (or think you may now be eligible):** Please do not email your details to the school office. Instead, we will be sending out a link to a secure, confidential Google Form in the coming weeks before the end of term.

Any family who believes they might now qualify under the expanded rules is invited to complete this form so we can safely check your entitlement well ahead of the September start.

**Questions? We are here to help.** All application data will be handled in strict, confidential accordance with UK GDPR guidelines. If you have any questions or are unsure about your entitlement, please contact our school office in complete confidence. We are committed to making this transition as smooth and easy as possible for your family!

# Tomlinscote Team Results



<b>Year 9 Boys</b> <b>Tennis</b> <b>U15 LTA League</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>King Edwards School</b>	<b>Score</b> 0-6	<b>Player of the Match</b> Stephan Burgess Jake Hilmi
<b>Year 7 Boys</b> <b>Cricket</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Winston Churchill</b>	<b>Score</b> 33 / 70	<b>Player of the Match</b> Casper Mawer
<b>Year 7 Boys</b> <b>Cricket</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>Score</b> 46 / 55	<b>Player of the Match</b> Casper Mawer
<b>Year 9 Boys</b> <b>Tennis</b> <b>U15 LTA League</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Gordon's School</b>	<b>Score</b> 4-3	<b>Player of the Match</b> Louis Washington Ben Holmes
<b>Year 8 Girls</b> <b>Cricket</b> <b>Camberley Cricket</b> <b>Tournament</b> <b>5th Place</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>Ash Manor</b> 33 / 46  <b>Emmbrook</b> 56 / 45  <b>Forest</b> 28 / 17  <b>Emmbrook</b> 42 / 75	<b>Player of the Match</b> Bethan Jackson	

All Team fixtures and results can be accessed on our Sports System:

[https://sport.tomlinscoteschool.com/Fixtures\\_Teams.asp?id=4438](https://sport.tomlinscoteschool.com/Fixtures_Teams.asp?id=4438)

# 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026

Tomlinscote school  
R Block

## 4pm - 6pm



# ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE Exhibition