

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16TH OCTOBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Bad news and good news. It's never a particularly good sign when our Site Manager comes towards me waving a piece of paper. On this occasion, it was the MOT failure certificate for one of our 20-year-old minibuses.

Unsurprisingly, the repairs needed, particularly to address the bodywork issues, came with an eye-wateringly expensive price tag. Our 20-year-old yellow bus is also due its MOT very soon and, if we're honest, our expectations for that one are not especially high either.

The good news is that we have taken the decision to replace both buses with two new 17-seater minibuses. The rear seats have been removed to create wheelchair-accessible spaces and, because the vehicles are lighter, they can be driven by a much wider range of staff than is currently possible. This will give us greater flexibility and create new opportunities for students. For example, we will be able to use these minibuses on Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, meaning parents will no longer need to travel down to Dorset to collect their child at the end of the expedition.

Several other schools within the Trust have already purchased the same vehicles and have been very pleased with them. We are hoping that our new minibuses will be on the road

before the end of the month.

Our Year 6 parent tours are now nearly complete. We had a total of 900 visitors join us for a tour over the last three weeks. The students have been extremely patient and welcoming as we have regularly popped our heads around classroom doors whilst showcasing the school.

This week, students from every year group have joined me for breakfast to discuss things they would like us to improve. As always, they were incredibly perceptive and thoughtful in their suggestions. As a result, I will be looking at installing a door at the front of the A Block girls' toilets, exploring the possibility of a one-way system in A Block, reviewing the restaurant queuing arrangements, providing separate lost property boxes for different types of clothing, increasing opportunities for university visits, and continuing to ensure that homework is consistently set on Google Classroom.

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for their support. We hope you have a wonderful break. Please remember that this is a two-week half term, and school will reopen on Monday 2nd November.

Matthew Venton

KEY DATES

MON 19TH - FRI 30TH OCTOBER	2 WEEK HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
SAT 31ST OCTOBER	YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION DEADLINE
MON 2ND NOVEMBER	RETURN TO SCHOOL
TUES 3RD NOVEMBER	YEAR 7 AUTHOR VISIT
MON 9TH - FRI 13TH NOVEMBER	HOUSE CHARITY WEEK
THURS 10TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 10 SKI TRIP INFORMATION EVENING, 6-7PM
FRI 13TH - SUN 15TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 9 BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE REQUIRED

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure clear and consistent communication between home and school, we are writing to request an information update for your child/children.

Please take a moment to check that your parental consents, home address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, and any preferred names for your child are correct. Once reviewed, kindly confirm these details in the Edulink One app.

For GDPR reasons, you will not be able to view or update the addresses or contact numbers of other adults linked to the child.

If the other linked adult is a parent, they can update their own details directly. If it is an additional contact, please email data@tomlinscoteschool.com

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION

Surrey County Council is consulting on proposed changes to admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2028 entry.

Full details of the consultation and the changes being proposed are available at [Consultation on admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools for 2028](#)

Year 11 students have begun their Beyond the Bell challenges, designed to support their preparation for their upcoming mock exams. Their first challenge is to use AI to create personalised revision timetables that not only allocates when to revise each subject, but also specifies areas of the exam specification to focus on during each session. The next phase, 'Prove It', will have students put their plans into action and complete challenges to demonstrate their revision. We can't wait to see students getting involved and earning recognition for their efforts after half-term!

[illegible]

These treats could be yours for completing a challenge! A fantastic example of a revision timetable from Sophie N

The winners from the last puzzle were Anya P and Hesara L in Year 7, and Melisa V in Year 8. Well done!

There is a slight rule change: Every Thursday during breaktime, lunchtime, or after school, students who have completed the puzzle will be able to go to Mr Hopcraft in A13. Students with the correct answer will receive 15 house points!

If only one person is correct, who is the tallest and who is the shortest?

Alex 12



James is taller than Bill

James **11**



I am taller than Alex

Not the shortest

Bill 13



I am taller than James

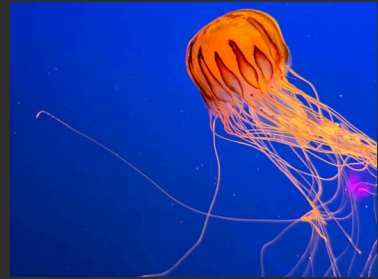
Last Week's Puzzle Solution: Envelope 3

TOMLINSCOTE TEAM RESULTS

Home Team	Score	Away Team	Player of the Match
Y11 Boys Football	0 - 0	Farnham Heath End School	Ollie E Indy M
Y9A Boys Football	0 - 2	Salesian College	George H
Y8B Football	1 - 1	Yately School	Johndean B
Y7A Boys Football	5 - 1	Yately School	Jude J
Y9 & 10 Boys Rugby	5 - 14	Winston Churchill School	Archie S
Y9 & 10 Boys Rugby	33 - 12	Collingwood College	Archie S
Y10 Boys Football	1 - 3	Amery Hill School	Ethan F
Y10 Boys Football	3 - 2	Court Moor School	Abdullah C
Y10 Netball	20 - 15	Calthorpe Park School	Annabel G Katie J
Y9 Netball	7 - 5	Calthorpe Park School	Amelia K Lucette N
Y7B Boys Football	1 - 2	Yately School	Henry R
Y7 & 8 Boys Rugby	15 - 0	Farnham Heath End School	Charles P
Y7 & 8 Boys Rugby	25 - 0	Collingwood College	Charles P
Y7 & 8 Boys Rugby	35 - 0	Winston Churchill School	Charles P

Y10 SEA LIFE TRIP

Year 10 Art students enjoyed a fantastic visit to SEA LIFE London on 7th October. The photographs they captured during the day will be used to create large observational drawings in oil pastel, alongside mixed media and textile outcomes. Students particularly enjoyed the impressive shark tank, the bioluminescent coral reefs, and the opportunity to see the penguins up close.



CAREERS WITH GERMAN

On 15th October, 50 keen Year 9 Germanists attended a careers roadshow at the Goethe Institut in London. Our students attended various sessions covering different aspects of careers using German and enjoyed visiting stalls at the careers fair where they learnt it is possible to study at university in Germany where the average tuition fees are €800 per year, with numerous courses in English! They heard representatives from Siemens and BMW discuss career opportunities where knowledge of German is a definite advantage. The clear message was that German speakers are in huge demand in the workplace and that by learning German Tomlinsschool students will be very well placed to take advantage of that.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM-TIME

Schools can only authorise time off in **exceptional cases**.

- Ask the headteacher **before** you plan any time off in term time.
- The headteacher will decide if your reason is exceptional.
- If the school refuses and you still take your child out of school, the school will record the absence as **unauthorised**.

Unauthorised time off can lead to a **penalty notice (fine)** or **prosecution**.

Penalty Notices

A penalty notice (PN) is a fine. It explains:

- why you are being fined
- how much you must pay
- how to pay
- what happens if you do not pay

If you do not pay, the council may take further action, which can include prosecution.

Fine Amounts

Absence - per parent/per child	0 to 21 days	22 to 28 days	More than 28 days
First absence (since 19 August 2024)	£80	£160	Prosecution
Second absence (within 3 years of first PN issue date)	£160	£160	Prosecution
Third absence (within 3 years of first PN issue date)	N/A	N/A	Prosecution

Prosecution

If attendance does not improve after support and warnings, the council may take you to court.

The court looks at:

- your child's attendance record
- the support the school or council offered
- what steps you took to improve attendance

The court can give a fine or another type of order.

Education Supervision Orders (ESOs)

An Education Supervision Order is a court order setting out what you and the council must do to help improve your child's attendance.

The council will explain what the order means and what happens next.

Persistent Absence

The government considers attendance that drops to 90% and below to be an example of persistent absence. The school will always work with the family to try and identify the causes of absence and provide appropriate support for the student to improve their attendance to school. If your child's attendance has fallen to 90% and you are concerned, please do not hesitate to contact their head of year who will be happy to discuss any challenges your child may be experiencing.