

Friday, 31 March 2023

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yet another eventful term and I would first like to thank you for your support and patience during the closure of the school kitchen. The closure was longer than anticipated, but it was necessary as we are not prepared to take any risks when it comes to student and staff safety. The problem has confirmed the need for a new school to be built, and I continue to work with the Department for Education on this exciting project. I hope to share the final plans for this school with you next term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and staff who will be in school, working hard, over the Easter holidays as we prepare Year 11 and 13 students for the summer examinations. Both year groups should be very proud of the diligence and enthusiasm they have shown in preparation for these external exams. They certainly deserve to secure the incredible grades they are capable of achieving.

Being Prepared to Learn: Uniform and Equipment

Please use the Easter holiday to replenish uniform, school bags and pencil cases. At Toot Hill, we want all our conversations with our young people to be positive and focused on student growth. We aim to run a school where our rules are invisible as students understand their value and we have no need to repeat them. Delays to lessons caused by a lack of equipment, or sanctions issued because of uniform infringements, can easily be avoided.

I would therefore like to ask parents and carers to support with the following:

- **Skirts:** All new skirts must be knee-length, black, of a formal cut and wide pleated but they do not have to include the official school logo. If legacy non-pleated skirts are worn, pencil-style / tight-fitting / stretch material skirts are not permitted.
- **Shoes:** Plain black lace-up or slip-on formal shoes with low heels (no more than 2 inches in height) must be worn. Please note that boots, trainers and fabric/pump style shoes are not permitted.
- **Fake nails and fake eyelashes:** For Health and Safety reasons, nail polish, fake nails and false eyelashes are not permitted.
- **Stationery:** Along with their planner, all students should bring a pencil case to school every day, consisting of at least two black or blue pens, a pencil, pencil sharpener, ruler, rubber and calculator. Year group areas sell equipment daily to those students in need.

Enrichment Week: Friday 14th - 21st July 2023

"Personal development is the belief that you are worth the effort, time, and energy needed to develop yourself" **Denis Waitley**

We are delighted to announce the return of Enrichment Week, previously known as Activities Week, in the last week of the Summer Term. We have reviewed previous years' plans, as we are cognisant of the rising cost of living for families. In addition, we believe that true character development comes from novel experiences in school, where students have the opportunity to develop deeper relationships with other students and their

staff. Therefore, this year's Enrichment Week will be mostly based in school with students participating in 'Dare to' lessons. These are lessons that are designed for our students to be exposed to new concepts in their curriculum lessons and for them to be challenged to debate, create and discover. Our sixth form students are very much part of these lessons and will be volunteering to leave their legacy and raise the aspirations of our younger students. There are some additional enrichment trips that are taking place during the week.

Please see the below timetable for an overview of the Enrichment Week:

	Thursday 13th July	Friday 14th July	Monday 17th July	Tuesday 18th July	Wednesday 19th July	Thursday 20th July	Friday 21st July (12.30pm finish)
Year 7	Normal timetabled lessons	Sports Day	Personal Development Day	'Dare to' lessons	'Dare to' lessons	'Dare to' lessons and Inter Tutor Set	Celebration Day
Year 8	Normal timetabled lessons	Sports Day	Walesby or 'Dare to' lessons	Walesby or 'Dare to' lessons	'Dare to' lessons	'Dare to' lessons and Inter Tutor Set	Celebration Day
Year 9	Normal timetabled lessons	Sports Day	'Dare to' lessons	Personal Development Day	'Dare to' lessons	'Dare to' lessons and Inter Tutor Set	Celebration Day
Year 10	Alton Towers celebration trip	Sports Day	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience	Work Experience
Year 12	Work Experience	Work Experience	Normal timetabled lessons	Normal timetabled lessons	Normal timetabled lessons and volunteer in 'Dare to' lessons	Normal timetabled lessons and volunteer in 'Dare to' lessons	Alumni Day

Early Finish on the Last Day of the School Year

Please note that school will finish for students at 12:30 pm on Friday 21st July. School buses will collect students at this time in the bus park. Please note that this change will support a staff meeting in the afternoon, and so staff will not be finishing the day early.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a fantastic Easter break. It is certainly well deserved following the disruption encountered to normal school life this past term.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher