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Friday 15th December 2023

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following a week of celebration at Toot Hill School. Every day has seen the morning start with a Year group achievement assembly. Today has seen every year group enjoy a Christmas assembly with a range of students from across the school performing in these events. However, there is never such a thing as a straightforward week at Toot Hill and I thank you for your support during the partial school closure.

School Flooding

The localized flooding we experienced on site this week was the worst we have ever experienced. I would first like to thank the staff who have worked around the clock to ensure our school remained open, albeit partially, this week. Thanks to Nova Education Trust support, contractors have also been working tirelessly to ensure the school is both dry and clean. This work will continue during the Christmas holidays to ensure we not only have a fully operational school, but all rooms affected have been thoroughly sanitized. I attach some pictures to show just how quickly some of the works have progressed.



Many thanks to the many parents and carers who have offered their support during this difficult week, as well as those who have offered kind words of support.

Head Students

Oliver C and Niamh O'B have been elected as the Head Students for Toot Hill School for 2023-24. They fully deserve this opportunity as they have been outstanding ambassadors for the school throughout their time here as students. I would like to thank all students who applied and were interviewed by myself and Mrs Davis; the standard was incredibly high.

Nova Transformational Awards

I am delighted to report that Toot Hill recently won the 'Giving Back' award at the Nova Education Trust Transformational Award ceremony at Nottingham University. We secured the award thanks to the incredible work our students do every week to support other students as well as those beyond our school. Recent examples include the Reverse Advent Calendar, Primary School Christmas Party led by college students and the Year 7/college student paired reading scheme. Without doubt the college team deserves enormous thanks as their 'Leave your Legacy' ethos has resonated strongly across the entire school.

School Trips

Without doubt, we have seen a large increase in the number of school trips this year, particularly those taking students abroad. We have listened to parent and carer feedback and will certainly be giving you earlier notice of trips next academic year as well as information about payment plans. I would like to stress that although educational in nature, none of our trips abroad are essential parts of our academic courses.

INSET Day Reminder

Please note that Monday 8th January is a staff training INSET day. The school will be closed to all students on this day. This is one of five statutory training days across the academic year. This is the last INSET day of the academic year.

Traffic on The Banks

Student safety remains our top priority. I am pleased to report that there is a consultation currently taking place where the local authority is considering a 20-mph speed limit on The Banks. In my view, more could be done to increase student safety on The Banks and Tithby Road. I have, with the support of Nova Education Trust, raised my concerns and possible solutions to Nottinghamshire County Council. In the meantime, I ask parents and carers to avoid dropping students off in these areas, and if this cannot be avoided, please use the voluntary one-way system on The Banks.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support over this term. We have enjoyed a fantastic term and fully understand that we achieve such success by working as a team. I hope you enjoy a fantastic and well-deserved break with your family and friends over the festive period. I wish you the very best for Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher

Recent Highlights

Christmas Concert

Thank you to so many of you who came and supported the Christmas Concert on Wednesday 6th December. The array of talent on display from students across all year groups was simply breath-taking. In addition, there was a wide range of performances from rock bands to the Toot Hill Big Band.

Nova Transformational Awards

The Giving Back Award was presented to Toot Hill School for the outstanding commitment it has made to voluntary activity/charitable work that is making a difference to the lives of others. In the words of Nova Education Trust:

At this school the decision to volunteer grew from the students themselves; they wanted to use their experience and wisdom to leave a legacy.

Over the course of the year a growing number of students volunteered to support in the schools Learning Support area, and in the Learning Lounge to support with literacy and within subject areas. This work has pioneered a new approach, paving the way for all the schools KS5 students to 'Leave their Legacy' as they move through the school community.

In addition to supporting in the Learning Lounge, and tutoring and mentoring, the students have also supported with the organisation of a Food Bank. Pupils at this school told Ofsted that 'there is something for everyone' when it comes to extra-curricular activities and that they enjoy organising and leading fundraising activities, and the Pride March.



Students in the school who need help to improve their reading are well supported. With a number benefiting from reading with sixth-form students each week. This well-developed programme helps these pupils to become confident and accurate readers and to develop a love of reading.

Reverse Advent Calendar Donations

The PE department and Year 12 students organized the Reverse Advent Calendar fundraising activity this year. It has been a huge success with so many students across all year groups contributing food donations. Year 12 students took a trip to The Meadows Trussell Trust foodbank in Nottingham to deliver the donations. A huge thank you to the families who have provided food over the last few weeks.



Primary School Christmas Concert

On Thursday 7th December, a number of our Year 12 students organized a Christmas party at Toot Hill for a large number of students from local primary schools. We hope to expand the number invited next year. It was a great event and will certainly aid the transition of primary school students to Toot Hill in the future.

FutureChef Success

Well done to Ella Lovejoy and Joel Farrell-Wall for making it through to the local final of the FutureChef competition. Ella even went on to win! We are so proud of you both.





In this "maths inspiration" trip, the three professional lecturers gave us a broader perspective on how maths can apply and involve in our daily lives.

The first lecturer, Mr Rob Eastaway, a famous author and puzzle adviser for New Scientist magazine, had presented us a few interesting maths puzzles, but also discussed about the limitations of AI by using chat GPT as an example.

The second lecturer Miss Aoife Hunt, who specializes in analysing the movement of people, talked us through normal distribution and showcased its application to real life, for example estimating the flow of a crowd during large events like concerts and football matches. Surprisingly, one of the graphs is actually a quadratic graph, which is something that I am currently studying.

The third and final lecturer, Mr Hugh Hunt, is a Professor in engineering at Cambridge University. He focused on the mechanics of spinning objects. By using a gyroscope and even throwing boomerangs, he gave us a basic understanding of angular momentum.

Overall, I enjoyed the trip a lot, as it showcased that maths is essential in real life. The application of maths to real life puzzles and situations clearly shows me that maths is not just about academic achievements in tests and exams but also essential for different aspects of our lives.

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