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Head Teacher
Dr C Eardley *BSc (Hons), PGCE, PhD*



Friday 25th October 2024

Letter from the Head Teacher October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We arrive at the end of a long but very successful half-term. Our students certainly deserve a well-earned break following all of their hard work this half-term.

New Head Students

I am delighted to announce that Chloe and Gabija from Year 11 are our new Head Students. They were part of a large field of prefects who applied for the roles. Every one of the students was magnificent, leading to an incredibly difficult decision. We are proud of all these student leaders for the fantastic work they do in school every day to ensure every student feels a strong sense of belonging at our school.

Year 10 and 11 Parent/Carer Student Progress Meetings

This year sees us trial a new system for Parent/Carer Evenings for Years 10 and 11 with the school closing early at 1:15 pm. We have made the change to prevent the sessions taking place over two evenings whilst ensuring that you can see all teachers. The recent Year 10 afternoon/evening was a huge success but we will decide if we continue with this system next year after taking stakeholder voice later in the year. A reminder that the Year 11 session is on Tuesday 21st January with the school closing at 1:15 pm. All other Parent/Carer evenings will run as normal from 3:30 pm with the school closing as normal at 3.00 pm.

New Build Update

The new school build is still going ahead as planned but is unlikely to be completed until 2029. I am frequently asked about the location of the new build. I am under strict instruction from the Department for Education not to share the details of the planned location of the new buildings. The Department for Education and chosen building partner will be responsible for sharing this information with the local community as per their planning protocols.

New Parent/Carer Bulletin

Next half-term will see the introduction of a new Parent/Carer half-termly bulletin. Following parent and carer feedback, this bulletin will share with you key information and dates in a manner designed to reduce the number of email communication you receive from our school.

Everyone Attends Every Day

High attendance at school is central to success for our students. It is linked with student wellbeing and academic success. At Toot Hill, we aim for 'everyone to attend every day'. Consequently, the school discourages students and their families from taking any holidays during term time. In the event of a request for holiday leave, a Leave of Absence form must be completed and given to



Student Services. This has to be ratified by the Head Teacher, who has sole discretion in the matter. It should be noted that these requests are very rarely granted as advised by the Local Authority and Department for Education.

Key Dates

Next half-term will appear a short one after this one, lasting 6 weeks. We will break up on Friday 13th December. Please note that there is an INSET day on Monday 6th January. This is the last INSET day for this academic year.

College Open Evening

The college open evening takes place on the evening of Thursday 7th November. Please note that this fantastic event is only open to students in Year 11, along with their families of course.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Our Year 11 exams will be sitting mock exams for the first two weeks back after the break. They have a plethora of online resources to use to support them. They are certainly set to do very well this year because of their commitment and hard work.

School Bus Operators

It has come to my attention that it is often assumed that Sharpes of Nottingham Bus Company run all school buses. This is not the case and I list the services, providers and contact numbers below:

Operated by Nottingham Minibuses (0115 844 0343)

- N49 (Burton Joyce/Lowdham/East Bridgford)
- N50 (Burton Joyce / Newton / East Bridgford)
- N53 (Lowdham / Gunthorpe and Shelford)

Operated by Sharpes of Nottingham (0115 989 4466)

- 651 (Staunton)
- 652 (Elston)
- 654 (Cropwell Butler)
- 655 (Shelton)
- 657 (Kinoulton)
- T1 (Balderton / Fernwood / Newark / Farndon)
- T3 (Stanton / Keyworth / Tollerton / Cotgrave)

Finally, I wish you and your family a lovely school break together.

Yours sincerely



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher