

Friday, 27 May 2022

End of Half-term Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy half-term at Toot Hill School and Sixth Form College. We have seen the first external summer examinations since 2019 and I would like to thank our Year 11 and 13 students for the mature manner in which they have conducted themselves. They exemplify our 'Work Hard, Be Kind, Take Pride' ethos and although we are still at the halfway stage of these examinations, I am highly confident they will secure exceptional grades and aspirational destinations this summer. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our teaching staff for providing so many sessions beyond normal school working hours to support our students.

Enrichment Opportunities

We are proud of the number of opportunities for students after school and the number of students who attend these sessions. We have also started to see a rapid increase in the number of trips available to children following the easing of restrictions caused by Covid-19. We will see a further increase in such educational trips next year, including opportunities to travel abroad.

Unfortunately, we are not running a traditional Activities Week this academic year. With the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic, we felt this time was needed in the classroom this year. Furthermore, with rising living costs and families often still feeling the financial impact of the pandemic, we did not want to impose further costs to parents and carers.

Nevertheless, we are currently planning celebration events for the final week of term and more details will be shared soon.

Student Behaviour and Celebrating Student Achievements

We believe at Toot Hill that exceptional behaviour goes far beyond compliance. We teach our students the value of great behaviour and we want them to understand the benefits of displaying kindness and empathy. I am delighted to report that there has been a measurable increase in the occurrence of simple gestures such as holding the door open for a peer or greeting a member of staff as they walk around school over the last half-term. Our students deserve to have their achievements recognised through more than credits and achievement assemblies. We are currently reviewing our reward systems and these will be announced for the new academic year, including the return of Achievement Evenings.

Stakeholder Voice

At Toot Hill, we want all stakeholders to have a voice that leads to school improvement. I thank our students for recently completing the whole school survey and I look forward to receiving the results of this from the company Edurio.

We now have created engagement strategies for students, parents and staff with associated working groups and action plans. Stakeholder voice goes far beyond collating surveys and for this reason, we will be inviting parents and carers into school next half-term to hear your views first-hand.

Governance is a key factor in ensuring our school continues to improve. We are currently looking to recruit governors with a range of skills and life experiences, as well as individuals with a local interest in improving our community. Please click [here](#) for more details or contact enquiries@novaeducationtrust.net for more information.

New Build Update

We continue to work closely with the Department for Education on the planning of our new school. We remain in the 'feasibility' stage of the process and this has been extended because of complexities caused by world events. Nevertheless, I look forward to sharing with you soon more formal plans about our new school which I am keen to ensure is more accessible to you and our local community than ever before so it serves as a true community hub.

I do hope you manage to spend some quality time with your family over the half-term break and that our students receive the break they truly deserve. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher