

Toot Hill School



From the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting and optimistic time. Hopefully everyone is refreshed and fully energised for the many challenges to come over the next weeks and months. Getting off to a strong, determined start is vital as it sets the tone for the remainder of the year. Every year group is important, from Year 7, settling successfully in to a new learning environment, through to Years 11 and 13, who face critical public examinations. The aim of the learner/parent/tutor interviews on Thursday 21st September 2006 and later on Tuesday 6th March 2007, is to clearly set out key targets and expectations so that the learning focus remains high throughout the year. Equally, we want to develop a much stronger partnership between home and school so that we can maximise our students' achievements and hence give them the best possible life opportunities beyond school.

Toot Hill School has secured our best ever results at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A-Level this year. I want to congratulate all those students who worked so diligently to achieve this success. Also I know that staff and parents played a significant part in helping these standards to be achieved:

<i>Key Stage 3</i>	<i>2006 Test Results</i>		<i>2005 Test Results</i>	
	<i>Level 5+</i>	<i>Level 6+</i>	<i>(Level 5+)</i>	<i>(Level 6+)</i>
<i>English</i>	80	36	73	30
<i>Mathematics</i>	89	74	86	69
<i>Science</i>	85	57	83	46

<i>Key Stage 4</i>	<i>GCSE RESULTS or equivalent GNVQ) 2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
<i>+ A* - C</i>	71%	68
<i>5+ A* - G</i>	96.7%	97
<i>Average total points per student</i>	409.2	403

	2006	2005
A-Level (Key Stage 5)		
A-E	97%	95.9%
A-C	74%	63.4%
Average points score	249.1	224.5

***best ever
results***

As pleasing as these results are, we know we can and must do better over the coming years. This improvement will not just occur as a result of natural progress. Each year it gets harder to make academic gains. Moreover, progress is never a smooth upward gradient. Every year group has its own individual academic profile and some year groups are stronger than others.

This having been stated, under our 'New Directions' agenda we are strongly determined to improve all elements that impact on achievement. We will be explaining this agenda to parents and learners when we meet you as a Senior Leadership Team on Thursday 21st September. You will be invited to two critical meetings that will last approximately 20 minutes each:

'Standards and Achievement': Mr Tomasevic, Mr Whiteley, Mr Hooker and Mr Rahman

'New Relationship with Parents': Mrs Marchant, Mr Watts, Mrs Strachan

Continued overleaf

September 2006

www.toothill.notts.sch.uk 01949 875550

CONTACT

Our 'Improvement Agenda' will be reviewing all aspects of school life and so it is important that parents are fully briefed about these potential developments at an early stage. We look forward to meeting everyone on the day.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support on the final night of Activities Week. The whole event raised over £3000 for the many charities we were supporting and this represents a superb achievement. So many people have commented upon the wonderful community atmosphere that existed and I can only echo those comments. Thank you.

Yours sincerely
John Tomasevic

ATTENDANCE & FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Every school's pupil/student attendance figures are now carefully monitored by the Local Authority and DfES. All schools are required by law to demonstrate that every effort is made to ensure pupils attend lessons. This year we are moving to an electronic registration system. This change enables us to take registers in every lesson as well as at normal registration periods in the morning and afternoon. Once this data has been analysed we can instantly see any instances of unauthorised absence and quickly contact parents and carers.

If a student is LATE to any lesson resulting from their own actions, this will also be recorded by the class teacher. The amount of time by which they are late will also be noted, and once they have accumulated 60 minutes of missed lessons they will stop in school after the end of the school day to recover this lost learning time. The key message is: it is better to be prompt to lessons rather than late.

A critical concern, both for us as a school and nationally, is the number of sessions lost due to family holidays taken during term-time. We appreciate the reasons why many families wish to do this but it does place a burden on the school. Lessons need to be caught up – often involving the teacher in extra work – and school statistics for attendance suffer.

Consequently, from September 2006 the school will not authorise any absence for family holidays unless proof can be provided that the holiday was booked before 1st September 2006. We ask for all parents and carers to understand the reasons for this stance. After the current academic year, in compliance with DfES guidelines no term-time family holidays will be authorised by the school.

Absence through illness, dental or doctor appointments, etc will of course be treated as in previous years and according to statutory requirements.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS AT TOOT HILL SCHOOL

At Toot Hill School we want EVERYONE:

- To act with RESPECT at all times
- To be successful and happy
- To understand that negative actions harm self-esteem, confidence and learning
- To demonstrate care to all in our school and wider community
- To give of their best at all times

How can we show RESPECT?

- By showing politeness always
- By helping each other
- By refusing to bully, either physically or verbally
- By taking an active interest in our work
- By putting others first

Toot Hill Arts Academy is a centre of Excellence for learning in Arts & Business in the rural Community of Bingham and surrounding Nottinghamshire.

Toot Hill Arts Academy

Discover your hidden talents

Autumn & Winter Workshops

For Adults

Wednesday 27th September, 4th October, 11th October and 18th October, 7-9pm.

Ceramic Sculpture
Soap Stone Carving
Photoshop Art
Digital Photography

Thursday 28th September, 5th October, 12th October, 19th October, 7-9pm.

Basic Drawing for Beginners
Textile Bag Making
Garden Design
West African Drumming

Wednesday 1st November, 8th November, 15th November, 22nd November, 29th November and 6th December, 7-9pm.

Life Drawing
Creative Inspirations
Creative Writing
Ballroom Dancing

Thursday 2nd November, 9th November, 16th November and 23rd November, 7-9pm.

Creative Card Making
How to use Ebay
First Steps in Business
Indian Cookery
Brazilian Drumming
Calligraphy

Family Art Day

Wednesday 25th October, 10-3pm.

Further information on all of the workshops listed and a brochure is available on request. Some workshops may offer specialist material packs at a minimal extra cost.

Come and enrol at our Open Evening and receive a 10% discount: Wednesday 20th September 5.30 – 7.30 pm

For Young People, aged 10-16

Jewellery Making

Wednesday 27th September, 4th October, 11th October and 18th October, 7-9pm.

Computer Animation

Thursday 28th September, 5th October, 12th October and 19th October, 7-9pm.

Digital Music

Wednesday 1st November, 8th November, 15th November and 22nd November, 7-9pm.

Big Painting

Thursday 2nd November, 9th November, 16th November and 23rd November, 7-9pm.

The cost for the **Adult** workshops is £7 per session. That's just £28 for a four week workshop and £42 for a six week workshop. The cost for the workshops for Young People is £20. **Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Therefore book early to avoid disappointment.**

How to book a place:

Register at our Open Evening and receive a 10% discount:

Wednesday 20th September 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Or Reserve a place by emailing:

community.arts@toothill.notts.sch.uk.

Or Reserve a place by phoning:

01949 863044

Contact details: Community Arts Office,
Toot Hill School, The Banks, Bingham,
Nottingham NG13 8BL.

Arts Academy workshops are run by professional artists & practitioners who offer high quality activities and provide great value creative learning experiences for Adults, Young People and Families.

KEY DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2006

Monday	18 th September Period 1	Years 7 and 10 individual school photos
Thursday	21 st September	Student Review Day
Friday	22 nd Septembe	Years 11, 12 & 13: Art Trip to Tate Modern
w/b Monday	25 th September	German Exchange; Crime Awareness Week
Tuesday	3 rd October	Years 10 & 11 Applied Business Trip
Friday	6 th October	Boulogne Trip (8X)
Wednesday/Thursday	11 th /12 th October	Year 6 Open Evenings
Friday	13 th October	Boulogne Trip (8Y)
Thursday	19 th October	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Wednesday	1 st November	KS3 Achievement Evening
Thursday	2 nd November	KS4 Achievement Evening
w/b Monday	6 th November	Year 7 Enterprise Week
Wednesday	8 th November	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Friday	10 th November	Year 10 Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio immunisations
Wednesday	15 th November	KS3 School Drama Production
Thursday	16 th November	KS3 School Drama Production
Friday	17 th November	KS3 School Drama Production
Thursday	23 rd November	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday	30 th November	Toot Hill College Open Evening
Thursday	7 th December	Carol Concert
Friday	8 th December	Year 7 & Choir Big Sing
Tuesday	12 th December	Year 12/13 Pantomime
Wednesday	13 th December	Year 12/13 Pantomime
Friday	15 th December	Christmas Assemblies: Last day of term
Wednesday	3 rd January	Spring Term begins



Toot Hill Term Dates

2006/7

Half Term	Monday 23/10/06	-	Friday 27/10/06
Christmas	Monday 18/12/06	-	Tuesday 02/01/07
Half Term	Monday 19/02/07	-	Friday 23/02/07
Easter	Monday 02/04/07	-	Friday 13/04/07
May Day	Monday 07/05/07		
Half Term	Monday 28/05/07	-	Friday 01/06/07
Summer	Monday 23/07/07	-	Tuesday 04/09/07

Inset Days 2006/7

4th September	18th December
1st December	19th December
	20th December