



16 February 2024

Head's Letter to Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

As we leave the challenging weather and dark nights hopefully behind us, I write to share reflections on term 3 and plans moving forwards. Well done to our Year 11 and 13 students who have successfully completed their mock examinations. We will be working hard to provide as much support and encouragement as possible for these students as we progress through the next term and into summer GCSE and A Level examinations. Formal assessments of learning and progress are ongoing throughout each year group, therefore your help in ensuring your child attends school and is fully equipped for learning is appreciated.

Student Achievements

After months of rehearsal, over fifty students performed Bugsy Malone on stage to packed out audiences last week. The show was superb, with students from all year groups represented. Together with sports teams, science ambassadors, reading champions and university visits to name but a few; our students have been very busy outside of the classroom. Our co-curricular offer of activities continues to thrive at lunchtimes, and after school. Please encourage your children to participate and experience our clubs and activities as they help to build confidence, resilience and further senses of achievement.

When I wrote to you after the last two terms, I noted that students should strive to 'get the basics right' each day in order to thrive and be successful in school. Whilst the vast majority of our students meet these basic expectations each day, there has been a noticeable decline in school uniform standards. At Tupton Hall School we believe that our school uniform helps create a sense of equality among students. It instils a sense of belonging and sends a clear message that we are serious about preparing our students for the world of work. Wearing our uniform each day makes morning routines simple and encourages a sense of respect for oneself and others.

Basics

There has been a marked increase in students wearing short trousers, leggings, tracksuit bottoms, joggers, trainers and short inappropriate skirts. As a reminder, false nails and facial piercings are not accepted in school and should be removed for school. Staff at our school strongly believe that high standards are important, and are wasting valuable time on a daily basis tackling these issues. Recently school introduced a new school jumper free of charge to support families with the costs of uniform, and to keep our children warm and comfortable, particularly in the winter months. In light of this success, and in response to the points raised above, we will be consulting with parents and students about introducing a standard school trouser and skirt for Tupton Hall students for September 2024 that will be worn by all lower school students. There would be no change to the upper half of the school uniform. Once again, in support of all families, we have sourced a new supplier for our school uniform that is significantly cheaper than our current supplier. As part of the proposals in the consultation all students would be given a standard trouser or skirt for free.

A link to the consultation will be shared with parents immediately after the half term break.

Every lesson counts

I would like to confirm that our students are permitted to use the school toilets in lesson times. However, it has become noticeable that some students are exploiting this opportunity, often being out of lessons for 10 or more minutes, visiting the toilet area, not necessarily the toilet, each lesson. Every moment of a lesson is very important and regular disruptions to learning not only affect individuals but also the whole class. Students with medical needs, including those needing the toilet more often, have an out of lesson pass which they can use at any time. Please can you discuss this with your child.

Feedback and planned improvements

You will shortly be receiving a letter explaining our plans to introduce biometric finger print technology for our catering services at school. We are increasingly experiencing difficulties with students forgetting pin numbers and time being wasted at tills. We would like this service to be as efficient, secure and reliable as possible.

Finally, thank you to parents and carers of our student body who responded to the questionnaire recently shared online. We are evaluating the responses and will act on this feedback to improve further the educational experiences that are provided for our students at school.

All students return to school on **Monday 26 February 2024**.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Knowles', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher