



Tudor Grange Academy Solihull
Dingle Lane
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 3PD

1st April 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

At the end of another busy term, I wanted to write to you with a general update and some key information that is pertinent to the weeks ahead.

COVID update

Thank you for continuing to support us with the measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission in our community. I can confirm that, since our return, there have been no incidents where students have had to self-isolate due to a positive case in school. Long may this continue!

If your child tests positive over the Easter break, please continue to inform us using the positivetest@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk email address.

COVID testing

Over the Easter break, students should continue to take twice weekly LFD tests and we recommend that you keep to the routine of testing on Sundays and Wednesdays. Please continue to record the test results in both of these locations:

- NHS Test and Trace site (instructions on page 15 of the leaflet given alongside the test packs)
- School Screener – please [click here](#) to see our Guide to Recording Results. You shall need to log in to the School Screener account you created when you gave consent

Changes to assessment dates for Year 7-10 and Year 12

We have been delighted with the engagement and progress of students during the period of remote education after Christmas. However, this period has clearly had an impact on curriculum delivery and coverage. To take account of this, the second round of key assessments for Years 7-10 and Year 12 have been delayed until later in the year. This also allows teaching staff to prioritise Year 11 and 13 at this crucial time.

The new assessment window will be 7 June – 18 June for Years 10 and 12. Teachers will communicate with younger years regarding the date of their subject assessments in class which are more flexible and will be scheduled by individual departments. Reports for this cycle will therefore be published to parents in early July.

We will be publishing a report based on the Learning Habits of students since their return on 8th March. This will allow parents / carers to have conversations with children about how they have approached different subjects since the return to school and will be available on Friday 30th April 2021. As a reminder, there is more information about the learning habits in this [video](#).

Year 11 / 13

At the end of March, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) released guidance to schools that gives us more detail about the awarding of grades for Summer 2021. We are working on our response to this guidance and will share further detail during W/B 19th April.





We fully appreciate that this is a difficult time for students in these year groups. We are proud of how they have approached their return to school and the assessments they have already taken (Year 11) and how they continue to strive for the best in every lesson.

JCQ have also produced guidance for students and their parents and carers. This can be found [here](#).

Lunchtime arrangements

Lunchtime arrangements for students will remain the same for the next half term, with a change in venues planned for the final half term. Students will be reminded of their lunch time venues after the break as follows:

Year 7 11.55 – 12.30 (Willow playground / restaurant)

Year 8 12.35 – 1.10 (Oak cafe / playground)

Year 9 12.35 – 1.10 (Willow playground / restaurant)

Year 10 1.15 – 1.50 (Oak cafe / playground)

Year 11 1.15 – 1.50 (Willow playground / restaurant)

Year 12 12.35 – 1.10 (Sixth Form café)

Year 13 1.15 – 1.50 (Sixth Form café)

Mobile phones

Since our return, we have dealt with several issues of students using mobile phones inappropriately and where social media activity outside of school has led to issues in school. These incidents are time consuming to deal with and distract from learning.

I know from conversations with other school leaders (in both primary and secondary schools), that this is a nationwide issue. The responsibility for monitoring a child's social media must lie with parents and carers. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your children and to monitor their social media usage.

We will continue to support you and your children by:

- Having systems in place (including our commitment to being a mobile phone free school) that mean students are not distracted by social media whilst at school.
- Continue, through PSHE lessons, tutor times and assemblies, to educate the students of the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet.
- Refer anything we believe could be defined as, or could potentially lead to, a child protection issue to the appropriate external agencies.

Please support us in our efforts by checking that your child does not bring their mobile phone into school.

Uniform

One of the most apparent ways for students to demonstrate pride in their school and being ready to learn is through the correct uniform. Following the lockdown, we have shown some leniency with certain uniform issues as we understand the challenges of obtaining uniform items at this time. However, on return to school after Easter, we expect that all students are meeting our high expectations with regard to uniform.

Please see the [handbook](#) for the current uniform expectations. In particular, please can I draw your attention to the following issues:

- Girl's skirts that are too short.
- Boy's footwear (trainers are not permitted).
- Excessive jewellery and make up.





Parental support plays an extremely important role in allowing us to focus on the key issues of teaching and learning rather than being side tracked by conversations about uniform.

Changing uniform policy for September 2021

Following the uniform consultation that took place in the Autumn term there will be some minor changes to the uniform guidance. Full details can be found [here](#).

Noticeable changes include:

- No jewellery (other than a wrist watch) to be worn.
- Girls are permitted to wear white shirts.
- Certain TG branded items will no longer be required, although they will still be available if desired.

During the consultation, the difference in the cost of boys and girls uniform was raised as a concern, the changes made address some of the issues and will mean that parents/carers will have a greater opportunity to buy aspects of the uniform from a range of retailers.

Please take the time to read through the [new uniform guidance](#) prior to purchasing any new items so that you do not incur any unnecessary expense. You will note that we will be providing product codes that are suitable for school skirts. This information will be provided in the Summer Term once retailers have confirmed their range for September.

Academy Behaviour Policy

Students returned to the Academy positively following lockdown, but we have seen a decline in behaviour from some students over the last two weeks. We will be working hard to ensure that everyone meets our high standards in the summer term and would ask you to read the [Academy behaviour policy](#) with your child over Easter as a reminder.

Staff changes

Mrs Lowe and Miss Mortimer (social sciences) will be taking maternity leave from Easter. We wish them well for their new arrivals.

We welcome Mr Smith (social sciences) to the social sciences department as a maternity cover and we congratulate Miss Taylor (social sciences) on her permanent appointment.

We welcome Mrs McGillicuddy (art) back from her maternity leave after Easter. Miss Harvey (art) will be starting a new job after Easter and we wish her the best of luck.

Miss Grace (learning mentor) took up a new role and left the Academy in March. Miss Giddings (classroom supervisor) is leaving after Easter to start her teacher training. Mr Hussain has supported students in computer science over the last two years and he finished his placement here at Easter. We wish them all the best of luck for the future.

And finally...

Just over a year ago, I spent the day standing in front of all students on their last day of school as we sent them off for the first lockdown.





At that time, there had been 104 UK deaths. Incredibly, there have now been 4.2 million cases of coronavirus and over 125,000 deaths. It has been a year of tragedy for so many – and we know that members of the TG community have lost loved ones.

It has also been a year of achievements, and this short reflection is testimony to the hard work, courage and care of everyone in our school community:

1. In March last year, students and staff all moved to remote education within days, learning new ways of working and getting to grips with new technology so brilliantly.
2. At the same time, a small number of students attended TG Small School for the first time, and were amazing ambassadors for our student community, embracing this 'new school' and being a pleasure to spend time with.
3. Throughout the lockdowns, the safeguarding and SEND teams have looked out for the most vulnerable, caring about their welfare and watching out for their safety.
4. Support staff and the catering teams have co-ordinated food parcels and vouchers for those families who needed that additional support.
5. Year 10 and 12 students returned in June, despite their anxieties, and showed focus, reliance and determination.
6. Last summer, at extremely short notice, we put in place processes for teachers to assess students for CAGS because exams were cancelled.
7. Around results days, we supported children and parents to understand their grades and make decisions about their next steps.
8. In September, we welcomed everyone back and saw extraordinary levels of attendance. Students showed maturity and responsibility in following the systems in place to keep everyone safe.
9. Teachers taught intensively throughout the Autumn term, getting to grips with the technology to allow those at home to access their learning as well as those in the classroom.
10. We dealt with approximately 40 cases of COVID amongst the community. Students who had to self-isolate showed amazing resilience and continued with their learning from home.
11. Then on 4th January 2021, after just one day at school, attendance was again restricted. We moved immediately to (improved) remote education and welcomed students back into TG Small School.
12. An extraordinary team of staff agreed to be redeployed to the testing centre and underwent training to ensure that they could carry out their new roles with confidence.
13. And in March we opened TGAS again to all students. Yet again, we have seen extraordinary levels of attendance. The testing centre administered over 5,000 tests with care and professionalism.
14. Once again, leaders and teachers are embarking on the process of making sure that our Year 11 and Year 13 students get the fairest possible grades as public exams have once again been cancelled.

What a year! Your children have really shown their Tudor Habits throughout and I am so proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We look forward to the summer term with positivity.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Smith
Principal

