



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

27th October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

As we reach the end of the half term, I write to you with some updates and key dates for the half term ahead. The students have made an excellent start to the academic year and I am looking forward to the remainder of the year with positivity.

Learning Habits Report

The first Learning Habit progress report of the year will be available in the fortnight commencing 13th November. We have listened to you and have made some considerable changes to the way we are reporting home this year, based on your feedback.

We are no longer using a proactive or reactive judgement in each subject. Teachers will now report whether a student is **always, often, sometimes** or **rarely** displaying the learning habits in their subject.

We are also including additional information on each report. This information includes your child's attendance, punctuality, and Standard Age Score (SAS) for reading.

At TGAS, we believe that there are four main barriers to learning; **behaviour, equipment** (including homework), **presentation of work** and **punctuality** to lesson. Teachers will be identifying on the report when these barriers to learning are evident in a subject; please take the opportunity to look at your child's planner to see whether there are any reminders for these barriers.

We hope that these changes will make the reports easier to understand and provide you with more information to be able to support your child.

Students have all now had an assembly about these changes. There is additional information [here](#). We will also be holding an information evening, on TEAMS, on Tuesday 7th November at 6.30pm for all parents who would like some additional information.

When progress reports are ready you will be notified that these will be available on My Child at School (MCAS) and students will also review reports in subsequent tutor times.

Your feedback is welcomed on these new style reports as we continue to work with you to provide you with useful information about how your child is doing at school.

Latest Newsletter

The latest newsletter can be found [here](#).





Learning Journeys

We introduced a common format and visuals for Learning Journeys at the beginning of the last academic year. We want children to be able to tell us where they are in their learning. Research shows that there is an intrinsic relationship between learning and a student's ability to articulate this learning. Students receive Learning Journeys in all subject areas which are kept in their exercise books. You can also find an electronic copy of the Learning Journeys under the [subject area](#) of our website. We would encourage you to use the Learning Journeys to talk to your child about what they are learning at school. Asking your child to explain what they are learning will help them to revisit key concepts and vocabulary.

Milestone Afternoon

This afternoon, Miss Knowles invited our top merit students to a milestone event where they celebrated with treats! Please continue to encourage your child / ren to demonstrate learning and character habits in lessons so that they receive stickers and can be celebrated in these milestone events.

Anti-bullying

We want an Academy in which bullying of any kind is not accepted by any member of our academy community. In November, we will be launching a series of activities (through tutor time, RHSE and assemblies) related to anti-bullying. More information to follow.

Personal Development

This has been a busy half term for our work on personal development. Mr Pole is working on a newsletter to share with you all after the half term break so you can see all of the wonderful opportunities our students have been involved in, including Macmillan coffee morning, college council meetings, visiting speakers, culture day and much more.

Attendance

The vast majority of our students have excellent attendance and we want to thank you for your support. We aim for all students to maintain excellent levels of attendance which in turn will support their attainment and support their wellbeing. After half term, attendance reports will be issued for all students giving you information about the number of days your child missed in the first half term. College Leaders are aware of students with specific issues that impact on attendance and will work with these students and families to focus on improving attendance in a manageable way. We hope that the information provided in the report will give you an opportunity to highlight the link between attendance and academic outcomes with your child/ren.

Please do continue to use the absence reporting form on the front page of the website to communicate issues that are relevant to your child.

Digital Library

You will be aware that there has been extensive investment in the site and facilities at TGAS over recent years. This is part of a longer-term plan and will, eventually include the addition of a brand-new library. In the meantime, and to support students with their reading, students have access to a digital library. Accessing the digital library is easy and you can do this by following the link below: <https://tgasolihull.eplatform.co/> Or by scanning the QR code below:





You can also download the eplatform app from the app store which will make reading and accessing titles even easier. Login details have been shared with students during tutor time but for your reference login details are:

Username: Your child's school email address

Password: TGAS1

Staff updates

At the end of this half term, we say farewell to two dedicated members of our associate staff team – Jade Ali, Duleep College Administrator, and Rachel Connan, Learning Mentor. I know lots of our families will have been supported by these staff and would join me in wishing them well. We also wish Mrs Penn (Maths) all the best as she starts her maternity leave.

Household support – October half term 2023

We have been asked to share the following information with parents / carers. This is particularly relevant to those in receipt of free school meals.

'A payment of £15 per child will be provided as food support for families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, for the October half term holiday period. Vouchers will be issued by the start of the holiday. Our Here2Help (<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/here2help>) provides details of additional food provision and essential utilities to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals.'

For more information, please contact the Education Free School Meals Team edfreesm@solihull.gov.uk.

Eco Committee

The new eco committee has now been established and we welcome new students who wish to join. On Thursday November 9th at 3pm we welcome our first external speaker to work with our 25 'Eco-warriors'.

Equipment

Thank you for your support to ensure that students have the equipment that they need for school. As a reminder, the equipment lists can be found [here](#) on our website.

Students use their whiteboards and pens in almost every lesson as teachers use them as a way to check whether students have understood. Over the half term break, we would be grateful if you could check that your child has a whiteboard and that their whiteboard pen is working. It would also be helpful if they had a spare one ready.

If you need support with getting equipment for your child, please make contact with your child's tutor who will be able to offer support.





Uniform

We are extremely proud of the high standards of uniform our students uphold and want to thank parents and carers for your support in this area. Uniform checks take place regularly in tutor time and you can monitor whether your child has been spoken to about their uniform by checking their SMART card.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the following with regard to uniform (further details [here](#) on the website):

- Skirts should not be shorter than 5cm above the knee (including for sixth formers). Please continue to check that skirts meet this requirement.
- With the change in the weather, we would encourage students to bring a coat to school. Coats should be plain grey, dark green, dark navy blue or black with no obvious branding, stripes, slogans or designs. A minimal fur trim is acceptable.

Police advice

As you know, we work closely with the local policing team and they have asked that we share this message with you:

As Halloween and Bonfire Night approaches, West Midlands Police would like to encourage you to talk to your child about staying safe and sensible during this time.

Remember...

- Stay visible at night by wearing fluorescent clothing or head torches
- Supervise children with sparklers and at firework displays
- Warn your children about stranger danger and only trick or treating in well-lit, known areas
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a firework, flare or smoke bomb.

You can download our free parents' guide of safety tips here: <https://www.west-midlands.police.uk/campaigns/darker-nights/asb>

If you want to report something suspicious call 101 or **999** in an emergency. For more information about how West Midlands Police are helping keep you safe this Halloween, search 'WMP Darker Nights'.

Thank you for your continued support over this half term. I hope that you all have a wonderful half term break and I look forward to seeing many of you at the events we have planned in the next half term. Key dates can be found on the next page.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Smith
Principal





w/c 6th November

6th-10th Nov Year 11 Geography Trip
8th November Sixth Form Open Evening

w/c 13th November

 Year 11 Trial Exams
13th-15th Nov Year 9 Citizenship Trip

w/c 20th November

 Year 11 Trial Exams
24th November CCF Exercise

w/c 27th November

 Year 13 Trial Exams
29th November Inset Day

w/c 4th December

4th Year 13 Trial Exams
5th December Carol Concert St Alphege Church
5th December Year 11 Results Day
6th December Year 11 Post 16 Taster Day
7th December Y7 RSC Christmas 'Box of Delights' Matinee performance
7th December Y11T Subject Parent's evening.

w/c 11th December

13th December Christmas Production - Annie
14th December Christmas Production – Annie
15th December Christmas Production – Annie

w/c 18th December

18th-21st Dec Year 10 Work Experience
19th December Prize Evening
21st December Christmas Talent Show
22nd December End of Term 12noon Finish

