



Tudor Grange Academy Solihull
Dingle Lane
Solihull
B91 3PD

8 March 2023

Dear Parents and carer

Change of College Names

You will be aware that the Tudor Habits and Values are central to everything we do at Tudor Grange Academy. Our Tudor Values (Tolerance, Unity, Democracy, Opportunity and Respect) reflect our aim to support students to become active members of our democratic society. We use the description of 'active member of democratic society' because we believe that embodying values such as tolerance and respect is about action and not just words. We hope that our culture and curriculum will encourage students to not only become curious about the different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and experiences of all people in our community but that they will use the knowledge they acquire to actively promote equality and diversity in our school and beyond.

We've worked with students and teachers over the last few years to reflect upon our curriculum and the things we do in our academy to better reflect and promote the diversity of our school and the community beyond. One of the things that has repeatedly been raised on many occasions is the lack of diversity in the individuals that were chosen to represent each of our colleges. We want to change that.

Last summer the school council surveyed every student in the school to compile their suggestions for names for the colleges. The only limit we gave students was that they should pick names of individuals that reflected the subjects taught in that college. With the help of subject staff, we have been able to identify six new college names. We hope that as a result of listening to the wishes of students and staff we have identified individuals that not only embody our values but also reflect the diversity of our school and society.

With so many names suggested to us we knew from the start of the process that some students would be disappointed that their suggestion did not make the final list. However, we hope they will recognise that we have moved a long way from where we were before, and the final list includes individuals from different backgrounds, beliefs and protected characteristics. Some will be instantly recognisable. However, some you may not have heard of before. This is intentional: we wanted to promote some individuals that have perhaps previously been overlooked. What is common to all these people is that they have led extraordinary lives, made significant contributions to their disciplines and, most importantly, changed society and the lives of others for the better.

We are keen to change the college names as soon as possible. However, as we use them in so many contexts (posters, banners, school information systems) this is going to be a gradual process rather than an overnight change. Nonetheless, we felt it important that we mark the beginning of this process with a letter to you and assemblies to student over the coming weeks.

You will find the new names of the colleges and a short description of the individuals' lives below.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Pole

Associate Principal and Strategic Lead for Personal Development





MIRZAKHANI

Maryam Mirzakhani (1977-2017) was an Iranian mathematician and professor of mathematics at Stanford University. She was the first woman to receive the Fields Medal, which is considered one of the highest honours in mathematics, in 2014.

Mirzakhani was born in Tehran, Iran and showed an early aptitude for mathematics. She completed her undergraduate studies at Sharif University of Technology in Iran and went on to earn her PhD from Harvard University in 2004. After a brief period as a postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University, she joined the faculty at Stanford University in 2008.

Mirzakhani's research was primarily in the field of dynamical systems and geometry. She made significant contributions to the study of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces and was particularly interested in the geometry of moduli spaces of Riemann surfaces of genus greater than 1. Her work was both original and highly regarded in the mathematics community, and she received numerous awards and accolades for her contributions.

In addition to her research, Mirzakhani was also an inspiring teacher and mentor to her students. She was known for her passion for mathematics and her ability to convey complex concepts in a simple and intuitive way.

Mirzakhani died in 2017 at the age of 40, leaving behind a legacy of remarkable contributions to mathematics and a reputation as a brilliant and dedicated mathematician. Her life and achievements serve as an inspiration to women and underrepresented groups in the field of mathematics and beyond.



Brunel



HAWKING

Stephen Hawking (1942-2018) A renowned theoretical physicist and cosmologist, who made ground-breaking contributions to our understanding of black holes, the nature of the universe, and the origin of time and space. He was widely regarded as one of the most brilliant scientists of his generation and one of the greatest minds of all time.

Hawking was born in Oxford, England and showed an early aptitude for mathematics and science. He earned his PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge, where he developed his interest in the theory of black holes. In 1963, he was diagnosed with a rare form of motor neuron disease (ALS) that left him paralysed and confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Despite the challenges posed by his condition, he continued to work and make seminal contributions to our understanding of the universe.

Hawking's most famous contribution was his work on black holes, which demonstrated that black holes are not entirely black, but instead emit radiation. This became known as Hawking radiation, and it revolutionized our understanding of black holes and their behaviour. He also proposed the concept of imaginary time, which suggests that time behaves like another dimension and that the universe has no beginning or end.

In addition to his scientific contributions, Hawking was also a popular author and public figure. His book "A Brief History of Time" became an international best-seller and made complex scientific concepts accessible to a broad audience. He was also a passionate advocate for the disabled community and used his platform to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Hawking died in 2018, but his legacy lives on. His contributions to science and his efforts to make complex scientific concepts accessible to a wide audience will continue to inspire and influence future generations of scientists and mathematicians.



Edison



TURING

Alan Turing (1912-1954) A British mathematician and computer scientist who made major contributions to the field of computer science, cryptography, and artificial intelligence. He is widely regarded as the father of modern computing and his work laid the foundation for the development of the computer as we know it today.

Turing was born in London, England, and showed an early aptitude for mathematics and science. He earned his PhD from Princeton University and went on to work for the British government during World War II, where he played a crucial role in cracking the German Enigma code. This work was instrumental in shortening the war and saving countless lives.

After the war, Turing continued to make significant contributions to the field of computer science. He proposed the concept of a universal machine, now known as the Turing machine, which is considered the theoretical basis for the design of all modern computers. He also wrote a paper on the theory of computability, which provided a mathematical framework for the study of algorithms and computing.

In addition to his scientific contributions, Turing was also a pioneering advocate for gay rights. He was openly gay at a time when homosexuality was still criminalised in the UK and was convicted of "gross indecency" in 1952. He underwent chemical castration as a condition of probation and died by suicide two years later.

Turing's life and work have been widely celebrated and his contributions to computer science and cryptography have been recognized by numerous organisations and institutions. He has been honoured with numerous awards and monuments, and his legacy continues to inspire future generations of scientists and mathematicians. Despite the challenges he faced in his personal life, Turing remains an iconic figure and an inspiration to many.



Morse



AUSTEN

Jane Austen (1775-1817) was an English novelist who is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language. Her works, which include "Pride and Prejudice," "Sense and Sensibility," and "Emma," are known for their sharp wit, social commentary, and portrayal of complex characters.

Austen was born in Steventon, England, and grew up in a close-knit family with a passion for reading and writing. She began writing at a young age and produced several novels and short stories throughout her lifetime. However, her works were initially published anonymously, and it was not until after her death that her authorship was widely recognised.

Austen's novels are widely considered masterpieces of English literature and are known for their commentary on the social norms and values of Georgian England. Her works often centre around the lives of middle- and upper-class women and their struggles with love, marriage, and financial stability. Despite the constraints of her time and social status, Austen was a fiercely independent and feminist writer who used her works to challenge traditional gender roles and to champion the empowerment of women.

Austen's impact on literature and culture has been immense, and her works have been widely adapted for the stage, screen, and radio. Her writing style, characterized by its sharp wit, irony, and sarcasm, has been widely imitated and continues to influence writers and filmmakers to this day.

Austen died at the young age of 41, but her legacy has endured. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers of all time, and her works continue to be widely read and celebrated by audiences around the world. Her life and achievements serve as a testament to her literary genius and her lasting impact on English literature and culture.



Darwin



DULEEP

Sophia Duleep Singh (1876-1948) A British-Indian princess, suffragette, and political activist who was born into royalty and went on to use her privilege and status to fight for women's rights and Indian independence. Singh was born into a royal Indian family and grew up in England. She was a goddaughter of Queen Victoria and was well-connected in British society. Despite her privileged background, she was politically and socially aware and was deeply committed to fighting for women's rights.

Singh became involved in the suffragette movement in the early 20th century and was a prominent member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), a militant organization dedicated to securing the right to vote for women. She used her position and status to raise awareness about the cause and was an active participant in demonstrations and rallies.

In addition to her work as a suffragette, Singh was also an advocate for Indian independence and was involved in the Indian National Congress, a political organization dedicated to securing independence from British rule. She used her position and influence to raise awareness about the cause and to support the independence movement.

Singh's life and achievements have been widely celebrated and she is remembered as a pioneering political activist and feminist who used her privilege and status to fight for social justice and equality. Despite the challenges she faced as a woman of colour in a male-dominated society, Singh was a trailblazer who inspired future generations of women to fight for their rights and to use their voices to effect change.



Da Vinci



OWENS

Jesse Owens (1913-1980) An American track and field athlete who competed in the 1936 Summer Olympics held in Berlin, Germany. He won four gold medals in the 100-metre, 200 metre, long jump, and 4x100-metre relay, setting world records and cementing his place as one of the greatest track and field athletes of all time. Owens was born in Alabama in 1913 and grew up in poverty. Despite facing challenges and discrimination because of his race, Owens showed an early talent for running and went on to compete in high school and college track and field events.

At the 1936 Summer Olympics, Owens faced immense pressure as he competed in front of Adolf Hitler and a Nazi regime that promoted a doctrine of Aryan supremacy. Despite this, Owens dominated the competition, winning four gold medals and setting world records in the process. His stunning performance was a major blow to Nazi propaganda and helped to shatter the myth of Aryan superiority.

After the 1936 Olympics, Owens continued to compete and to set new records. He retired from competitive track and field in the 1940s and went on to work as a coach and public speaker. He was awarded numerous accolades and honours throughout his life, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and was inducted into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame.

Owens' life and achievements have had a profound impact on sports and on society. He is remembered as a pioneering figure who broke down barriers and paved the way for future generations of athletes. His legacy continues to inspire people around the world and to serve as a testament to his athletic prowess and his unwavering determination to overcome adversity.