



Dear parents/guardians,

As we come to the end of the first half term in spring, it is great to see the days getting longer and brighter, albeit not necessarily dryer. I feel it important to write to you to express my gratitude to the vast majority of students who act as role models and ambassadors every day within Tudor Grange Kingshurst. As a school we are fortunate to have a wide variety of students offering so much to school life. I would also like to thank you, the parents for your support on your child's educational journey. There have been many changes over the last 18 months and there will be more changes in the future. This academic year alone there have been 52 educational visits, 42% of which 'Aspirational visits', 32% sports trips and sports leaders events. With all trips being accessible to all students. The Aim Higher project has provided funding to cover 18% of all trips. There are more exciting trips and visits already planned, such as the Italy ski trip and the Paris art trip, these trips allow truly inspirational experiences and memories to be captured.

The introduction of SAS has seen Year 7&8 students looking forward to Friday afternoons and the variety of events and activities on offer to further develop their understanding and curiosity. Never has there been such a positive buzz around Friday afternoon teaching!

With the new half term approaching, I would encourage all Year 11 students to be making the most of the revision and intervention sessions on offer, so that they can enjoy their Prom, after the exams, in the knowledge that they have prepared themselves the best they can and therefore can relax and enjoy their well-earned break.

There will of course be new changes to further drive standards and expectations higher. Mr Parfitt will be influential in driving these standards and will outline the key messages below.

Standards and Expectations

After half term we are launching our new mantra of **"First time, every time"**. This is to insist on students responding to staff members' reasonable requests quickly to avoid any lost learning time, which can be frustrating for all. To support this, we are amending the consequence system to reduce the number of warnings a student receives in a lesson. This will be very simply, a first verbal warning followed by a final verbal warning. Any further warnings will result in a 30-minute same day detention which will be sat in their Colleges at the end of the day. To support students in making the right decisions we will also continue to praise and reward them through the sticker system, badges, post cards/letters/calls home and incentive trips and events which we currently have at various points throughout the academic year.

Tudor Habits

At Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst we know that to flourish in life you need much more than great grades. We believe that the personal development of our students is integral to success, and the Tudor Habits represent the behaviours that our students require to prosper in later life. All staff at Kingshurst are committed to driving the Tudor Habits. The 'Learning Habits' strengthen our students' ability to be: hardworking; inquisitive and resilient, whilst the 'Character Habits' encourage our students' to be: respectful; responsible and aspirational. Please talk to your child about these habits to strengthen and re-enforce these habits in them and the things they do. These habits are referred to in a lot in communication with students at the academy.





Uniform

In terms of personal standards, we continue to expect students to dress smartly and appropriate at all times. To maintain these high standards, we are banning hoodies/sports jumpers being worn on site. We will be expecting students to come to school in an appropriate coat. If students feel the cold then there is a school grey plain V neck jumper which can be worn underneath their blazers. Whilst on site and in the building coats will be expected to be carried. Students not complying will be spoken to and have items confiscated and/or sanctions applied.

As we enter a half term can I please draw your attention to the uniform and standards policy which can be found on the school website <https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2019/08/tg-kingshurst-uniform-booklet-v2.pdf>. In particular we tend to have students who return with inappropriate piercings, jewellery and nails. To avoid any negative start to the term and/or sanctions being applied can you please ensure students are appropriately attired for school and have the required equipment to be able to access and be prepared for their academic lessons. Students also require a reading book and calculator along with more than one pen. Please see attached equipment list.

Start of school routines

We have been made aware by members of the public that students are gathering at various points down Cooks Lane and outside of school which causes distractions for motorists. After half term we will be asking students, when they arrive to school, to make their way onto site and not congregate at the gates and these points etc. to limit this distraction and to ensure students are safe and supervised. Could you please encourage your child to do this if they are walking or catching the bus to school. Personal safety on bikes also continues to be a concern and we continue to have reports in the local area of students acting irresponsibly. For the safety of the student if we see or are made aware of unsafe riding and practice then we will not allow students to bring their bike to school. On site students are also expected to push bikes to the bike area and do the same on leaving. This is to avoid any accidents and provide an orderly exit.

In relation to arriving on time to school, can I remind you that school starts at 8:30am. At this point students should be in or at their form base. A warning bell at 8:25am sounds to inform students they have 5 minutes to get to their form base. If students arrive after 8:30am without a legitimate or appropriate reason then a 30 minute same day detention is given. Punctuality is important to ensure students are set up and feel prepared and organised for the day ahead. Please support us with getting your child into school on time.

In recent years we have significantly improved the schools overall attendance. Our school target is a very aspirational 96%. Can I please also ask parents to continue to support with ensuring students are attending every day. If there are concerns/reasons that are causing attendance issues please let your child's college leadership team know as soon as possible so we can get them back into school at the earliest point. Students whose attendance is below 90% will struggle to keep on top of their learning and fall behind. They are also statistically more likely to underperform in school and see a reduction





in their grades compared to those students who attend at 95% and above. Attendance really does matter!

Personal safety whilst travelling home and to school continues to also be a concern. We have had numerous reports recently of students being approached by members of the public for mobile phones, bikes or simply being antisocial. Could you please remind students to be vigilant at all times, try to not be on their own or have mobile phones out and on show. It is also important that they are sensible in the route they choose and should wherever possible keep to main roads. Please report any issues or instances to the school and police so there is a log. It is a sad state we live in where we have to give this advice, but it really is important for their safety and to limit any potential issues.

New Data System (Bromcom – Spring 2020)

Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst is moving to a new data management system in late February 2020, this move is in order to have increased consistency with the other schools within the trust. This will result in the removal of Go4Schools as we switch to the new system, Bromcom.

The switch over for teachers will happen on Tuesday 25th February and will result in parents being unable to access the Go4Schools system. Over the weeks after launch we will ensure all parents are informed about how to use the new system once this is up and running. There is much more information available within the Bromcom system and we hope you will find it continues to improve the communication between school and home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents that have actively engaged with the parent access within Go4Schools, it has only worked to strengthen the lines of communication between school and home, which in turn allows us to better support all of our pupils.

I would like to wish you all a restful half term and look forward to seeing students fully prepared for the rest of their school year on Monday 24th February.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Boyle
Acting Principal

