



Tudor Grange Academy Redditch

September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

A very warm welcome to the new academic year and I very much hope that everyone had a restful and good summer.

It is my privilege to take on the role of Principal at Tudor Grange Academy Redditch and it is my firm belief that we have a school and community that we should be immensely proud of. It is my aim to show parents and the community just how wonderful our school is and to encourage more people to visit and to see why we are so proud.

Exam results 2016

Once again, we have a set of exam results that show that students are making exceptional progress at Tudor Grange Academy, Redditch.

GCSE

- 100% of our students achieved at least 5 GCSE qualifications
- Under the new government Progress 8 measure we have achieved positive progress for all students overall
- Exceptional performances in core subjects with:
 - 76% achieving expected progress in English
 - 79% achieving expected progress in Maths (exceeding national benchmarks)

Many of our students have stayed on with us in Sixth Form to complete a range of courses and we very much look forward to seeing their future successes.

A Level

We received some fantastic results at A level, with 100% of all students achieving at level 3 qualifications. Over a third of all students achieved a top grade of A/A* grades and a 100% A*-C pass rate in: A level French, German, Music Technology and Further Maths. Three quarters of the year group will now progress to university/further education to study courses such as Business Management, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, Education, Performing Arts, to name a few. We had some fantastic performances, students with particularly high achievements include: Emily Taylor (BAD*), Chloe Timothy (A*AA), Chloe Weaver (A*AA), Oliver Bushell (A*AC), Heather Hughes (A*A*A), Nathan Dyke (AAB), Gemma Linzey (A*BB), Laura-Mae Yapp (AAB), Hannah Swinbourne (ABB), Emily Mills (A*A*A) and Katherine Trout (BBB).



Working together

As part of our ongoing reflection on how we can improve the academy and local relationships, I have asked for an external organisation to work with us as an impartial spokesperson to run a series of parental focus groups. For the first focus group, I am asking for volunteers from parents of our new Year 7 and 9 cohort of students whether they would be willing to take part in 45 minute focus group on Thursday 22nd September 2016 at 6pm. The focus group will look at understanding influences in the community, factors influencing choice and related issues. If you'd like to volunteer to take part in this please can let Andrea Green know by emailing her on agreen@redditch.tgacademy.org.uk

I thank you in advance for your help with this and I am committed to ensuring that we have an ongoing process throughout the year which reflects on building local relationships within the community.

In addition to the focus groups, we have launched weekly drop in sessions for parents with college leaders and a weekly 'Meet the Principal' session every Thursday. Details of these sessions are displayed in reception and are noted below for your reference.

- Monday: Meet Mr Bastock- College Leader for Orion between 3 and 4.30pm
- Tuesday: Meet Miss Waterhouse (SENDCO) and Miss Crehan –'The Hive' between 3 and 4.30pm
- Wednesday: Meet Mrs McNamara – College Leader for Pictor between 3 and 4.30pm
- Thursday: Meet Mr Gariff – College Leader for Vela between 3 and 4.30pm
- Thursday: Meet the Principal – 9am until 11am. Please contact Andrea Green to confirm a time on agreen@redditch.tgacademy.org.uk

Please do not "sit" on any concerns at home, we are here to help and to work together to resolve issues quickly. Please also note, that all teaching staff can be contacted via their email addresses so please do raise any subject concerns directly with them.

Parental Information Evenings

We run a number of Parental Information Evenings across the year, which cover a number of topics to help parents understand the academy's curriculum, behaviour policy and general awareness sessions such as e safety. Parents have always commented on how useful these sessions are and I encourage all parents to spare the time to attend these. Our first meeting of the year is on Wednesday 14th September at 6-7pm and the agenda will cover:

- New drop in sessions with the Principal and College Leaders
- Showmyhomework – how you can monitor the homework your child is receiving
- Rewards – a new system to celebrate success and achievement
- Character – how we will be developing key skills in your child such as resilience

New staff

We are delighted to welcome the following new staff to our community:

- Mr M Boyle Trust Associate Principal
- Mr K Hall College Leader
- Mrs C Barnfield Trust lead for Science
- Miss C Waterhouse SENDCO
- Mr B Lane RM/Graphics teacher
- Mr D Woolley Science teacher
- Mr R Mc Duff Science teacher
- Mrs S Thomas Mfl teacher (Maternity cover)
- Miss A Myatt Receptionist

Open Evening

I offer advance warning now but a separate letter will follow, that we will be closing the Academy on the 21st September at 13.15pm in order to prepare for our Open Evening. It also offers the chance for our student volunteers and guides the chance to go home and rest before the evening.

Uniform and Attendance

Our standard of students' uniform is fantastic and we are very proud of how our students look. A reminder that students need to be in full school uniform at all times please. All students need to wear black leather shoes – no trainers. If you need any assistance with purchasing uniform, due to financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact myself for further support.

All students should be in school and ready to learn by 8.50am at the latest and anyone arriving after this time will serve a late detention. Students must come fully equipped with a bag and they are expected to carry with them the usual classroom equipment such as pen, pencils, ruler etc. and a reading book.

With regards to attendance, thank you in advance with supporting us with this matter. Sue Walker, is our dedicated Attendance Officer and works daily with students and parents to help ensure that students are in school learning. It is imperative that students do not lose out on time in school unless it is absolutely necessary. As previously mentioned, I am keen to work with all parents in partnership and I acknowledge there may be times where exceptional circumstances means your child will be absent from school. However, it is also important to highlight that we do take attendance very seriously and if a child is taken out of school without authorisation, the academy will follow its policy which includes both fines and legal action.

Behaviour for Learning

The academy has a very clear policy on behaviour and expectations and Miss Crehan will be writing to you separately to outline updates to our Policy.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and it promises to be a hugely exciting one in Tudor Grange Redditch's journey. I very much look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

J Bolter

J Bolter, Principal