

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We draw a close to the end of a highly productive and eventful term. Our renewed focus on creating a culture of celebration at Toot Hill has placed community engagement at its core, with dramatically increased opportunities for face-to-face interactions with school. In addition, we finally received our first Ofsted inspection since December 2011.

We have now reached a time when our expectations and standards are no different to those before the pandemic and if anything, they are higher. This has been secured by 'narrating the positive' to create exceptional social norms within our school within a culture of celebration. Students are recognised for their efforts and excellence in a plethora of ways, such as Achievement Assemblies, credits, awards for accumulation of credits, verbal praise in and out of lessons, Achievement Evening and 'Hot Chocolate with the Head'.

### NACE Challenge Award

Earlier this term, we were awarded with the NACE Challenge Award for the fourth time. Furthermore, we are the first school in the country to be awarded Ambassador status! This is a huge achievement recognizing our learning provision for the most able of learners. However, the award also recognizes that providing for More Able learners is about creating a curriculum which gives opportunities for all children to flourish.

Everyone should be very proud of their part in securing this award. The assessor's feedback stated that the culture of the school was central to her decision and we all play our part in setting this culture. Specific thanks go to all the teachers and students involved in the assessment day. The fantastic lessons visited were truly representative of our More Able provision on a day-to-day basis.

### Parent/Carer Partnership

Communication with you is central to school improvement and we recognise that there is still much to build on in this area. Face-to-face information evenings, in-school parents' evenings, increased parent/carers meetings, Achievement Evening and Parent Forum meetings are now all regular features of our calendar. However, an increased number of positive phone calls from staff to home is also fundamental to a stronger working partnership, as is a focus on improving the quality of all written communication home to ensure it is positive, accurately conveying the ethos of our school.

Next term, we will be seeking your views about how we can improve our communication with you. As ever, your voice is crucial to improving our school. I summarise below some key changes made this term as a result of parent/carers voice:

You Said	We Did	Future Actions
Home Learning was not being communicated effectively with home via MCAS.	We have introduced Class Charts.	We intend to expand the information shared on Class Charts so all key information is shared via one app.
There should be more enrichment opportunities for students outside of school.	The last week of the academic year will see a return of many educational trips for our students.	Details of the trips will be released after Christmas to enable payment plans to be set up.
We would like Parents' Evenings to be face-to-face.	The first Year 7 Parents' Evenings were very positively received.	Provide a wider variety of staff to meet during the evenings, starting at the Year 11 Parents' Evenings after Christmas.
Make key members of staff more accessible to parents and carers.	Senior Leaders, Heads of Department and Heads of Year email addresses are now available on the school website.	

### Ofsted Inspection

At the time of writing, we await publication of the Ofsted inspection report. I give you my word that our response will be forensic and thorough as we ensure our school provides an exceptional learning experience for every single student. More importantly, our goal is to exceed any criteria laid out in an Ofsted document; every student should achieve more than they ever thought possible at Toot Hill.

### Crowdfunding Campaign

A huge thank you to the parents, carers, staff and members of our local community who have contributed to the Nova Education Trust crowdfunding campaign. At time of writing, over £23,000 has been raised to support families in our local community, at what can be a very challenging time of year.

The New Year always brings with it a renewed sense of optimism. To ensure you child makes a fantastic start to the year, I would appreciate it if you took the time to ensure they are fully equipped with regards to uniform, stationary and PE kit. As ever, please contact the school if you are experiencing difficulty providing uniform.

I wish you the very best of Christmas holidays with your loved ones. Our students certainly deserve a well-earned and fruitful break.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr C Eardley**  
Head Teacher