

Friday 21st October 2022

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start this letter by thanking you and our students for your support over this first half-term. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you during the Information Evenings in the first week of term, where we set our bar for the highest of standards from our students so they can all achieve more than they ever thought possible. I am delighted to report that they certainly have met our expectations and, in many cases, far exceeded them.

Our Culture of Celebration

We expect the highest of standards from our students because we care. We believe all our students can achieve great things both at school and when they leave Toot Hill, whatever their career path may be. Our culture at Toot Hill School is one of celebration and there has been a palpable positive change at Toot Hill this term; staff and students focused on the positive as a learning community, and displaying the highest of manners with each other and the community as we continue to create positive social norms where everyone understands the importance of great behaviour.

Our culture of celebration extends to our families to and I am delighted to be inviting parents and carers to the Toot Hill Achievement Evening at Kelham Hall on Wednesday 9th November. After cancelling this prestigious event because of the pandemic, I am relishing its return, as we give parents and carers the chance to celebrate their child's fantastic achievements along with the school community. Families of winning students will be notified separately, and may have already been notified by the time you receive this letter.

Our Response to Your Feedback

Thanks to all of those of you who completed the Edurio online survey in the summer. Your opinions mean so much to us as we endeavour to improve our school at every opportunity. We received the survey results at the start of term and I summarise our key findings and actions below:

You Said	Our Actions
School reports were difficult to understand and there is uncertainty about what the numbers mean on reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all supplementary information is provided alongside every report. Ensure that reports are completed and sent home in a timely fashion to enable a parent/carer and/or student response to teachers. Run a live online event for parents to explain the reporting process and the meaning behind the reporting data prior to each report cycle.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a review with parents to ensure reports are fit for purpose and provide the required information to ensure parents and carers can support students at home.
Parents and carers are keen to have face to face opportunities back on the calendar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise Parents' Evenings to return to face-to-face events. • Organise and run parental information evenings for each year group. • Provide termly parent/carer-partnership opportunities to collect parent/carer voice.
Ensure that all parental contact is replied to in a timely fashion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/carers to receive the minimum of a holding email from staff within 24 hours (excluding weekends). • Ensure all staff utilise the out-of-office function on Outlook if they are likely to be non-responsive to emails over an extended period of time.
There needs to be improved communication to facilitate parent/carer support with Home Learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the number system for Home Learning on reports is clearly communicated via the live information events. • Utilise Class Charts to ensure parents/carers can easily access the Home Learning set by teachers. • Ensure that parents/carers are contacted at the point of there being an issue with completion of Home Learning.

Uniform Improvements

Without doubt, our students started the academic year more smartly dressed than ever, wearing our uniform with pride. I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that any new skirt for school should be a pleated skirt. In addition, if parents/carers are experiencing difficulties purchasing uniform, they should contact their child's tutor.

Road Safety on The Banks

I thank you for doing all you can to improve road safety on The Banks for our students before and after school. We have seen a recent increase in the number of parents and carers dropping off their children in the main car park in the morning. We ask that this should only take place if there is a communicated medical or safeguarding need, or you are attending school for a meeting.

I hope you enjoy a lovely school break with your family.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher