

10<sup>th</sup> August 2016

J:4aPupil/Pupil/Letters/Beginning of Year ltrs/new Yrs 8, 9.10 July/Aug 16

HOY/File

To Parent(s)/Carer(s) of: «Forename»  
«Surname»  
«AddressBlock»

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I would like to offer an early welcome back and I hope you are all managing to find time to relax and enjoy the summer. It seems like a good time to communicate with you about our expectations for the new school year as we look forward to a successful and busy 2016/2017.

- 1. Uniform:** As I am sure you are aware we believe that a smart appearance is an important part of ensuring and securing high standards. As of this year, we will be running a daily lunchtime detention for the minority of students who do not wear their uniform to the expected standard. We continue to have some issue with girls rolling up skirts for example, and we are keen to act on this quickly. Therefore, any uniform issues will result in a lunchtime detention the same day (or the day after if after lunch). We will monitor this carefully and ask students for their opinion on this at the end of the first half term. We very much appreciate the strong support that the vast majority of our parents give us over school uniform issues. The school dress code is available in detail on the school web-site, but I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our expectations and to clarify a number of issues, as you may be about to purchase items for the new school year.

School shoes should be formal in style and plain black. No trainers or shoes depicting sport company logos are permitted. Ballet style plimsolls/pumps are not acceptable. Please note that shoe laces and socks should also be black. Parents are reminded that as from January 2013 it has been a requirement that all pupils in Years 7 – 11 inclusive must wear the formal Toot Hill skirt/trousers bearing the school logo.

School coats should be plain black or dark coloured, water-proof, without logos and need to be worn over the school blazer. Hoodies and leather jackets are not allowed in school.

Students may wear a watch but no other jewellery is permitted due to health and safety issues and liability of loss. Please be advised that smart watches will not be allowed during assessment periods. Could you, therefore, ensure that they are not brought to school during this time as we cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage whilst exams are taking place.

If students wish to have any part of their body pierced they must arrange this at the beginning of the summer holidays so that the wound has sufficient time to heal. Plasters may not be worn to cover body jewellery. If pupils disregard this they will be isolated from other pupils until they comply with the regulation.

Please can I also remind parents that extreme hairstyles (colour or style) are not allowed, eg undercuts or patterns shaved into hair. Parents should consult, in advance, with the Head of Year if they are unsure as to the suitability of a change of style. The school shall be the arbiter of the term 'extreme'.

- 2. Planners:** Planners will once again be available for students in September and we would appreciate a contribution of £5.00 towards the cost. Please find a reply slip attached to this letter, which can be returned to your child's tutor.

3. **Tutor Review Day:** One Tutor Review day is scheduled this year and will be held on Tuesday 27th September.
4. **Term dates:** Students should return to school on **Monday 5th September**. Term will end for students on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, returning on Monday 9th January 2017.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce a weekly parent bulletin this Autumn term. We are always looking at ways to improve communication with parents and hope that you will find this useful as a way of keeping in touch with what is going on at school as well as what is around the corner.

Finally, a reminder about the importance of sensible and safe behaviour on the way to and from school, whether this is on foot, by car, by bike or by bus. There is frequently congestion around the entry point to school on The Banks as well as the car park, so I would therefore ask parents to consider dropping children off at a more appropriate place to reduce the build-up of traffic, therefore creating a safer route to school. Those children who travel on buses will already be aware of the possibility of being removed from the service if behaviour is not of the highest standard.

I very much look forward to welcoming your child back to School in September. In the meanwhile I hope that you enjoy the remainder of the summer and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*Mari Paskin*  
Miss M Paskin  
School Leader

----- ✂ -----  
**Please return to Main School Reception by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Pupil Name ..... Tutor Set .....

I/We confirm that payment has been made using the online system.  
(password reminder available by emailing the Finance Dept on  
*finance@toothillschool.co.uk*).

I/We enclose £5.00 towards the cost of the Student Planner.  
*Cheques should be made payable to Toot Hill School.*

Signed ..... Date .....