

Principal: Mark Woodhouse

Brandon Road
Swaffham
Norfolk
PE37 7DZ
T: 01760 721480
E: office@tnha.org.uk <http://tnha.org.uk/>



19th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

With the summer holidays almost upon us, I wanted to take the opportunity to update parents and carers on aspects of Academy life.

As is always the case, the last few weeks have been incredibly busy. We have seen our Year 11 and Year 13 students complete their respective courses and are now awaiting results in August. There have been numerous celebratory events including the Year 11 Prom and the Music Evening. The latter brilliantly showcasing the talents of many of our students here at the Academy. As well as several trips, our events have included Sports Day and our acknowledgement to Armed Forces Day a few weeks ago. All of these events can be found on our social media feeds and if you subscribe to any of our supported social media platforms, I would suggest following TNHA @teamnha to hear the latest news updates.

Communication with the Academy

I am conscious in this day and age how communication can take many forms. I have made it clear with staff in the Academy about my expectations in terms of communication. This was outlined in a communications protocol that I sent out to parents and carers back in January. I will re-publish this in the new academic year but it highlighted the time frames and the best people to contact when looking to speak to someone in the Academy about specific issues. I would ask where possible that you adhere to this protocol so that issues can be picked up efficiently. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact the Academy has recently changed email services and we did initially experience several emails being diverted into spam/junk mail folders. Staff have subsequently been made aware of this and are being asked to check regularly these files for any genuinely misplaced emails. We are also trying to streamline the ways we communicate with parents and carers and would ask that if your telephone numbers or email addresses change that you inform the Academy so that we can endeavour to contact you appropriately.

Key Dates

The holiday dates for the new academic year have been available on our website for a few months now. However, as a reminder, the new term starts on Wednesday 4th September and we break up for Christmas on Wednesday 18th December. The October half term falls between Monday 21st and Friday 25th October. Confirmation of the other term dates can be found on our website.

Attendance

Without students being in the Academy they cannot learn. From September, the Academy's attendance target is 98%, which equates to 4 days absence throughout the year. We expect all routine medical appointments to be attended after the Academy day or during the Academy holidays. Studies show that students who have less than 96% attendance are at risk of underachieving, and students with under 90% are at severe risk of underachieving. If your child's attendance is less than 96% we will contact you to discuss the reasons behind their absence and look at ways to support your child in attending school.

Cont. overleaf...



Behaviour

Behaviour in our Academy has improved significantly and we appreciate all the support received from parents and carers. We strongly believe that all students have the right to feel safe and have a disruption free learning environment. It was great to see so many students attending the Rewards Trip run in July and we look forward to running future trips. In September, we will be publishing our updated Rewards and Sanction policy on our website.

Uniform

Please note the new uniform policy for September 2019 is on our website. Girls wearing skirts in Years 7, 8 and 9 must be in the Academy skirt. Trousers, for girls and boys, should be straight leg and loose fitting. 'Trainer like' or canvas shoes are not permitted. Students are only allowed to wear one stud earring in each ear and facial piercings are strictly prohibited. Extreme hairstyles are forbidden and all make-up should be 'natural' looking. If students are not in correct uniform they will be asked to change into uniform supplied by the Academy. For further information, please check our uniform policy.

School Money

We are working towards becoming a cashless organisation and School Money is the platform we are using for this. Our staff have been able to work through any of the issues that you as parents and carers may have had with the system, so I would ask that if you have an issue then please get in touch with the Academy. I would also ask that you regularly check the balance of money in your child's account so that it does not cause any issue when they come to pay for food and drink at their break and lunchtimes.

Go4Schools

As you will have seen in previous communications, Go4Schools is the platform by which we can share with you how your child is progressing in the Academy. We know many of you regularly access the system to see not only reports on progress but also what homework is being set. We will be continuing to develop the use of this platform through the next academic year, so if you get an opportunity over the summer holiday, please familiarise yourself with the current reports and information on the system in preparation for the new academic year. If you are experiencing problems with accessing the system, then please get in touch with the Academy.

The Academy has undergone a number of significant changes this year and naturally, at this time, we see changes to some of our staff as well. This summer we will say goodbye to Mr Harvey, Miss Eldridge, Mr Delve, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Waters. Whilst it is always sad to see staff leave us, we wish them well with what they have planned for their futures. A particular mention should be made of Mrs Waters, who is retiring after 33 years of not only teaching - but teaching at TNHA. Her commitment and dedication to the thousands of students who will have passed through the doors of TNHA during her time here cannot and should not be underestimated. We all wish Mrs Waters a happy and well-earned retirement.

With staff leaving, it also means we will be welcoming a number of new staff to the Academy in September. We have been able to successfully recruit in all the areas required and look forward to working with our new colleagues in September. Similarly, we recently had two very successful Year 6 transition days and we are looking forward to properly welcoming 150 new Year 7s in September.

Finally, thank you for all your support over the last academic year. I wish you and your families a wonderful and restful summer. We look forward to seeing all our students re-energised and ready for the new academic year on **Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 8.45am.**

Our calendar for the 2019-20 academic year is attached for your information, which as previously mentioned can also be found on the TNHA website.

Yours faithfully



Mark Woodhouse
Principal