

Parental Engagement

One of the difficulties that parents face is coping with their children's transition from child to young adult. Adolescence can be a difficult time for everybody. As a school we should be able to help by providing information and support when it is needed. We have a range of advice and guidance services for pupils – such as the School Nurse, Connexions and a School Counsellor. However, we can also help parents access support such as Parentline Plus or through our Parental Support Advisor, Mandi Holt.

Another way we can help is by providing regular information such as reports and Parents Evenings. This year we have introduced the 'PAL' system for Year 11 pupils so that every single pupil has a Learning Mentor who will talk to them about their academic progress and contact home as and when necessary.

If, at any other time you would like to contact the School nurse do so by using the contact details below.

One other initiative that we are launching this year is the "Head's Forum"! I will make myself available to answer any questions from parents and the Local Community and to hear concerns (and perhaps even praise) about the service we provide. The first "Head's Forum" will be at 6pm on Tuesday 3rd November in the Sixth Form Centre followed by a PTFA meeting at 7pm. The PTFA will be providing refreshments during the Forum and would be delighted to see as many people as possible at the meeting afterwards. We have already identified a programme of events for the year.

I look forward to seeing you at the "Head's Forum".

John Reilly, Headteacher

TEACHING AWARDS 2010

*Say 'thank you' – nominate now
for the Teaching Awards 2010*

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the Teaching Awards 2010 Scheme.

We have had a number of colleagues nominated in the past.

Absolutely anyone involved with the school can nominate – further details are available

www.teachingawards.com

Enrichment Programme

I am delighted to draw your attention to this year's Enrichment Programme, which is an exciting addition to Tewkesbury students' learning and involves three separate days during the school year. Students will be off normal timetable for the day to take part in a series of enrichment activities, designed to support learning and the development of relevant subject and/or life skills.

Different departments will be collaborating to offer a variety of deeper learning experiences. For instance, in November, Expressive Arts will be exploring identity and diversity with Year 8 and the Vocational Department will be putting on a business enterprise activity with Year 11.

The dates of the programme are **18th November, 9th February, and 24th June**. Students will not usually have to wear uniform, and unless otherwise informed and depending on the activity, they may wear casual clothes. As a rule, there is no cost to students for these Enrichment Days, however a small payment may be asked for in order to run some workshops. During one of the days, some year groups will be learning about sexual health issues, such as teenage pregnancy, puberty and its effects on the body and mind. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further or if indeed, you feel you have anything to offer for these extra-curricular experiences and would like to be involved in some way.

Miss Willoughby (Assistant Head)

Uniform & Equipment

Thank you for the generally high standard of uniform. As Autumn turns to winter, pupils will start to wear outdoor coats to school. Please note that this is not a reason or excuse for NOT wearing the school blazer.

Communication: We have been working hard to introduce new initiatives to further improve our communication with parents on important school matters. We welcome any comments or feedback from parents.

Text: Schoolcomms is a system which will enable us to improve communication with parents with regard to student absence. Tewkesbury School will be using Schoolcomms to combat truancy and reduce absences by sending a text message to parent(s)/Carer(s) of pupils that are in Year's 7 – 11 that have not attended registration. In order for us to use this system effectively please ensure that, if your child is absent, you have notified the school by 8.50am at the latest by calling the Attendance Officer on 01684 851806. If you have not called to notify us of your child's absence the system will automatically send a message to you. We are hoping to inform you by text by 9.30am on the day of your child's absence (times may vary due to circumstances beyond our control). It is also important that the Management Information Team are advised of any mobile phone numbers that change..

Email: If you would like to receive a version of the school newsletter or school notifications by email please contact Miss A. Kinahan, Data Manager at the school (annette.kinahan@tewkesburyschool.org) Please also remember to notify us of any change in email addresses.

The school contact details are as follows: Tewkesbury School, Ashchurch Road, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 8DF.

Main School Number: 01684 292152
Student Centre: 01684 851815
Email: office@tewkesburyschool.org

Fax: 01684 850742
Sixth Form Centre: 01684 851807
Website: www.tewkesburyschool.org

Access to Internet Payments for Trips & Visits, Music Tuition and Trading

The Finance office have now issued the pupils unique user names and passwords and access can be made via the contacts page on the school website.

If you have not yet received your access details and would like to make payments over the internet or have having trouble setting up your account, please contact the Finance Office.

Tel: 01684 851801 or e-mail: financeonline@tewkesburyschool.org

Forthcoming Non Uniform Days

Friday 13th November - Funds will be divided between 'charity week' charities

Other dates will be **Friday 5th March 2010** and **Friday 28th May** (charities to be confirmed nearer the time)

CARS ON THE SCHOOL SITE

Those parents who drop pupils off on the school site will know how congested it can become. The school has almost 2000 people on site and inadequate car circulation and parking. This is compounded by the busy road outside with traffic lights and a motor way junction close by. It would benefit us all if pupils could, where possible, either walk or cycle to school. We already have a high proportion of pupils cycling. Alderman Knight School changed the timings of their school day a couple of years ago in order to improve the situation but it seems to have worsened this year. If dropping pupils off by car is unavoidable I would urge parents to try and drop-off before 8.30am when the buses start to arrive. It might also be a good idea to drop pupils off and pick them up a little way away from school so they can walk onto the school site.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Students arriving early at school I have noticed some students arriving at school very early in the mornings. Whilst I do not want to discourage students arriving promptly, I would ask that students are **not on site before 8.00 a.m.** due to the obvious supervision and health and safety reasons.

I have arranged for the dining room/k central be open for students to socialize in if they arrive early now that the mornings have become darker and colder. Thank you.

Thanks to everyone who supported the **RECENT NON-UNIFORM DAY** in aid of Jeans 4 Genes, Cancer Research and MIND **Total so far is £1124.22 Well done!**

Reminder: Charity Week Mon 9th to Fri 13th November This year the School Council has chosen to support Veninos – for Venezuelan Street Children and Shelterbox – which is an international disaster relief charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth and dignity to people affected by disaster worldwide. More information about both charities is available on their websites – www.veninos.org and www.shelterbox.org

Congratulations to:-

KS3 Girls & Boys Medley and Free Style Beth Parker Yr 8, Izzy Compton Yr 7, Hetty Rothwell Yr 7, Rebecca Sheppard Yr 7 who won the KS3 Girls Medley and Free Style relay races at the Cheltenham District Swimming Finals.

Alex Telford Yr 9, Tom Barter Yr 9, George Shepherd Yr 8, Eli Gibney Yr 8 who also won the KS3 Medley and Free Style event.

County level Squash well done to Aiden Rothman and Jordan Hardwick who have been selected to represent Gloucestershire in the boys' Under 13 squash teams.

Also to Maria Hardwick who has been selected for the girls' Under 17 Squash team and Jade Rothman who has been selected for the girls U13 and U15 county squash teams.

County Girls Football Well done to Molly Minchew who has been selected for the Gloucestershire Girls U12 football school of excellence.

U15 District Football Well done to the following Y10 Boys who have got into the District squad for this season. Iain McDuff, Ryan Caddock, James Andrews and Daniel Spencer.

Useful dates up to Christmas

Date	time	Event	Venue
Mon 19 th Oct	All day	School Photos for Y9,Y11,Y12 and Y13	Sports Hall
Tues 20 th Oct	6.00–8.00	Parents' Transition info evening (for Y7 parents)	TLC
Wed 21 st Oct		Y11 Progress Reports issued	
Thur 22nd – Fri 30th		Half Term	
Tues 3 rd Nov	6.00 p.m.	Head's Forum' open meeting with the Head	6 th Form Centre
Tues 3 rd Nov	7.00 p.m.	PTFA meeting	6 th Form Centre
Wed 4 th Nov		Start of GCSE retake exams (to 13 th Nov)	
Thur 5 th & Fri 6 th Nov	7.00 p.m.	Year 13 Play	Drama Hall
Mon 9 th Nov		Start of Charity Week	
Tue 10 th Nov		Sports team photos	Gym
Tue 10 th Nov	6.00–8.00	Parents' Transition info evening (for Y7 parents)	TLC
Wed 11 th Nov	7.30 p.m.	SPATS concert	Tewkesbury Abbey
Thur 12 th Nov	4.30 p.m.	Y13 Parents' Evening	6 th Form Centre
Fri 13 th Nov		Charity Non Uniform Day	
Wed 18 th Nov	All day	Enrichment Day	
Wed 18 th Nov	7.00 p.m.	Parents' of Y7, 8, 9 "Online Safety" Info Evening	Gym
Thur 19 th Nov		Science module exams for all Y10's and Y11 single science + re-sits	
Thur 19 th Nov		Y8 progress reports issued	
Thur 19 th Nov	4.30 p.m.	Y11 Parents' Evening	
Fri 20 th Nov	7.00 p.m.	Y12 Play	Drama Hall
Mon 23 rd Nov		Mock Language oral exams start (to 04.12)	
Wed 25 th Nov	All day	2 nd HPV vaccination for girls in Y11, 12, 13	Main Hall
Thur 26 th Nov	4.30 p.m.	Y12 Parents' Evening	6 th Form Centre
Fri 27 th Nov		Y12 & 13 Smart and Silly Charity Day	
Mon 30 th Nov		Start of Y11 mock examinations	
Thurs 3 rd Dec	4.30 p.m.	Y9 Parents' Evening	K Central
Mon 7 th Dec		INSET DAY	
Fri 11 th Dec	7.00 p.m.	Textiles Fashion Show	Drama Hall
Tue 15 th Dec	7.30 p.m.	Carol Service	Tewkesbury Abbey
Thur 17 th Dec		Y7 progress reports issued	
Thur 17 th Dec	7.00 p.m.	Christmas Concert	School Main Hall
Fri 18 th Dec	12.30 p.m.	Autumn Term finishes	
Mon 21 st Dec– Fri 1 st Jan		Christmas Holiday	
Mon 4 th Jan	8.40 a.m.	Start of Spring term for all students	



“Cotswold Women in Business”

A comprehensive programme of local support for enterprising women with ideas

Ever wondered about starting a business? There are all kinds of enterprising things women do, ideas they have, and hobbies they enjoy that can potentially make money.

Tewkesbury School is part of a successful community collaboration offering ongoing inspiration and practical support to women who want to find out how to start and run their own businesses. **“Cotswold Women in Business” is funded by three schools, Tewkesbury, Chipping Campden and Farmor’s, allowing high quality courses and workshops to run at amazing subsidised rates.** The courses are hugely popular and enjoy strong local support.

The course runs one-day-a-week, for eight weeks, and takes place at the schools from 9.30am to 2.30pm. This allows women with children to drop them and collect them from school. The course provides a sound grasp of basic disciplines such as marketing and finance. Additionally it boosts confidence, supports each woman to define success on her own terms, to see her life as a whole and build a business that has her own unique priorities embedded in the foundation as she moves forward.

For women who have an idea for a business, aren’t sure if they have the right skills, and wonder how it could fit with their already busy lives, the programme is a comprehensive chance to explore and risk assess the whole picture. There are monthly follow up meetings in place for all women who complete the course. Most women who go through the course go on to register as self employed. Those that decide self-employment isn’t for them make that decision with confidence and use the network and skills they have gained to support their next steps.

The Cotswold Women in Business Programme includes:

- Three full length business start up courses each year
- Graduation celebrations at the end of each course
- One-day “taster sessions” at each of the partner schools each year
- Monthly meetings and training events at each of the partner schools

Here's what previous course participants have said:

Kaz Reid: *“I was given the information I needed to research my business idea and the skills to make it a success. I completed the course feeling empowered and excited about the future.”*

Sue Nixon: *“The course was phenomenal. I have gained confidence, and a wealth of knowledge.”*

Sharon Callcott: *"I have a focus now and a direction to move in to make a success of this venture. We all left today feeling that we had been empowered to move ahead and that our ideas and contributions were valuable."*

Ruth Wright: *"I am near to banking my first £1,000! Everyone says I look well: self employment obviously suits me. I have some delightful clients and I can't tell you what a relief it is not to be an employee. I am building up my hours and from May onwards I will be committed as fully as I want to be."*

Upcoming dates for events in Tewkesbury include:

- **Wednesday 24th March 2010 "One-Day Taster Session"** to put a toe in the water and find out more **9.30am – 2.30pm. Cost: £8 including a light lunch.**
- **Wednesday 5th May 2010 "Comprehensive Business Start Up Course"** to get you up and running **9.30am – 2.30pm every Wednesday for 8 weeks. Cost: £99 including light lunches and all materials.**
- **"Monday Monthly Workshops" 10.30am – 12.30pm** with topics that include: IT skills; Legal surgeries; Tax workshops; Marketing workshops; Presentation Skills, Confidence Building; Effective Networking; Negotiating Skills; Time Management and more. There is no charge for these meetings.

For more information please contact:

Cotswold Women in Business

Sarah-Jane Menato

Tel: 01386 701 868

Email: sjm@sjmcoachingandtraining.co.uk



ICT Parents' Evenings

Dear Parents/Carer

I am hoping to run a series of sessions to offer parents the opportunity to find out more about the kind of work that students have been covering in their ICT lessons.

They will cater for all different levels of ability, so don't be scared off if you don't feel too confident!

In the first instance, I just need to know what topics might prove most popular. If you think that you would be interested in attending, I would be grateful if you could indicate which of the suggestions below would be of most interest, so that I can plan accordingly.

I look forward to hearing from you and will notify you of any dates shortly.

Yours sincerely

Andy Forbes
ICT Teacher



ICT Evenings Reply Slip

Please fill in and return to the Student Centre.

Name and tutor group of student: _____

Tick all topics that might be of interest

Graphic design	<input type="checkbox"/>	Game Maker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flash animation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website design	<input type="checkbox"/>