

Ref: GWA/LWO

19 April 2021



Dear Families

Many of you will already be aware of the tragic death of one of our ex-students last week in a motorcycle accident. Finley Bayliss left school last year and was a most personable, charismatic, polite and courteous young man with whom I had enjoyable conversations on an almost daily basis. This morning we have held a minute's silence in Fin's memory and later this term we plan on holding a non-uniform day in aid of Winston's Wish, a charity offering support to bereaved children. I will also be liaising with Fin's family and our student body to create a lasting memorial at the school to help us remember Fin. I am acutely aware that the rest of this update pales into insignificance in relation to Finley's passing.

Thankfully, it has been some time since I have been informed of any positive Covid cases at the school. The latest available local data is encouraging with only 9 positive cases per 100,000 people in the Tewkesbury area. Large numbers of children and staff continue to take and report their lateral flow tests and for that I continue to be grateful. Students in Y11 and Y13 are now in the final run up to end of year assessments that, alongside other evidence of their performance, will help inform their final grades. We cannot afford to be sending home large groups of students at any time but least of all now and your support and cooperation with the continued testing is appreciated.

With some restrictions relaxed on April 12, amidst a fortnight off school, I was anxious that your children would come back expecting greater freedoms and with their defences down. I am delighted to report that they have returned to the in-school limitations of masks, sanitisation and one-way systems with characteristic good-nature. The more pleasant weather makes ventilating classrooms easier and also does now mean that students can use our extensive school fields at break and lunch time in clearly defined areas for different year groups. Summer uniform, too, can now be worn, allowing the removal of ties if logoed short sleeved shirts or blouses are worn. Today's attendance of 95.5% is also most encouraging.

Hopefully, we will be able to increase our provision of extra-curricular activities as the term progresses. Sport and the arts have been particularly hard hit over the last year and it will be great to see your children showcase their talents once again in these areas.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M. Watson', written in a cursive style.

Mr G M Watson  
Headteacher

A reminder of forthcoming events is overleaf.

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Headteacher: **Mr G M Watson** BSc PGDip NPQH

**Tewkesbury School - important dates for your diary:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
27 April		Year 7 reports issued
29 April	4.30-7.30pm	Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening 1 (Core) <i>Appointment booking opens on 20/4/21 at 18:00</i>
3 May		May Bank Holiday Monday
4 - 21 May		Start of Y11 and Y13 summer exams (assessments)
6 May	4.30-7.30pm	Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening 2 (Extension - info to follow)
13 May	4.30-7.30pm	Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening 1 (Core- info to follow)
20 May	4.30-7.30pm	Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening 2 (Extension - info to follow)
26 May		Year 9 reports issued
28 May	2.30pm	End of term
29 May - 6 June		May Half term holiday

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