



8th March 2016

Dear Families

At long last I am in a position to share with you the Ofsted inspection report following our full inspection in early February. I am delighted to say that the outcome was pleasing and sees the school improve on its Ofsted rating and be officially declared a 'Good' school. On a personal level, I am delighted for all those associated with the school but especially for your children who continue to work hard towards improving their life chances in the classroom and actively participating in all those other activities on offer that develop their characters. Without the hard work of all staff at the school and the support of parents, governors and our local community partners we simply would not be making the rapid progress that was commended by the inspectors.

The report itself is attached in this mailing and can also be viewed on the school website. You will be reassured to know that we are not resting on our laurels but pressing on with further improvements and a strategic review for the next steps on the school's improvement journey.

Exam Results

This week, our Year 11 students have received more good news with pleasing results in English Literature, Health and Social Care and Computing. The results in English Literature in particular were most encouraging with still further opportunities for students to improve in the summer exam season.

Extra-Curricular

Last week saw the annual World Book Day with many events led by the staff in the library and English staff dressing up as famous literary characters. Second hand book sales went well and the raffle too was most successful. We are very grateful to parents and members of the community for their donations. Special mention needs to go to Vicky Barnes for her wonderful cakes which were a work of art!

Our Y8 netball team deserve our congratulations for their second place to Cheltenham Ladies College in the district netball competition. Losing by a single point in the final to a team they had beaten in the earlier rounds was a difficult pill to swallow! Our U19 squash team have progressed to the national trophy finals in Nottingham once again. Our sustained success in squash brings with it a strong national reputation and I am sure you will join me in wishing the team the best of luck in the finals. Sixth Form footballers, too, also warrant a mention for reaching the final of the Cheltenham District League.

Staffing

Whilst it is proving increasingly difficult to recruit teachers, I am pleased to say that last week we managed to secure new Maths and Computing/ICT teachers for September who both come highly recommended. We continue to work closely with partner schools to offer student placements for trainee teachers and these links are likely to be one of the main sources for ongoing recruitment.

Uniform

"Many pupils appreciate that they are ambassadors for their school. As a result, they are smartly presented and wear their uniform well. For many pupils this is reflected in the presentation of their work, which is neat, legible and clearly laid out."

Steve Smith Lead HMI, Ofsted Report 2016

In the summer term, students will again be allowed, should they wish to, to wear the short sleeved shirts and blouses with the embroidered Tewkesbury School badge, or continue to wear their standard uniform. These arrangements are unchanged from last year. The vast majority of our students in recent years have chosen to continue to wear their standard uniform at least until term 6 when the temperature does start to pick up. Summer uniform can be purchased from either Schooltogs, Cheltenham or Trutex, Gloucester.

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Year 11 students, as always, will be expected to wear school uniform throughout the exam season.

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Uniform changes

As I mentioned in my communications before Christmas, and following feedback from students and parents, we will be expecting all girls to be wearing either navy trousers or navy skirts purchased from our uniform suppliers from September 2016. These items will be badged on the hip with the school crest and are being introduced due to the wide range of unacceptable skirts and trousers that girls are sporting from a multitude of fashion outlets that neither meet the length or fabric requirements of the school uniform policy. The new skirts and trousers will be available from the uniform shops shortly after Easter. To put further downward pressure on prices we are introducing a third web-based uniform supplier, www.schooltrends.co.uk - more details to follow.

All students wishing to wear jumpers, too, which are an optional item, will also need to purchase them from either of the uniform shops. Please defer any new uniform purchases until those revised items are available in the shops which is likely to be shortly after Easter.

Parents' Evenings and Reports

Last week we saw a very well attended Y10 parents' evening. The importance of showing your support and interest in your child's education should not be underestimated. I am grateful to the vast majority of parents for giving up some of their early evening to hear how their children are progressing. The Y8 parents' evening is approaching and I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

With this term being little more than 4 weeks long we have made the decision to miss out the usual Term 4 data drop progress reports for Y7-9 students. Their next reporting point, therefore, will be at the end of Term 5.

Forthcoming events/key dates

Further dates and school term dates can be viewed on the school's website calendar.

Date	Time	Event
12 March	2.30pm	Play: Al's Yellow Slipper at the Roses Theatre – tickets available from the Roses
12 March	7.30pm	Play: Al's Yellow Slipper at the Roses Theatre - tickets available from the Roses
21 March	4.30-7.30pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening, K Central
22 March	7.00pm	Spring Concert in the school Gym/Hall – tickets available from the Finance Office
23 March		Progress reports issued to KS4 and 5 students, full reports issued to Y12
24 March-10 April		Easter holiday
11 April		Start of term 5
24 March		Berlin trip departs (to 28/3)
11 April		Start of Summer term (optional summer uniform can start to be worn)
13 April	6.30pm	Y6 parents' information evening in the Sports Hall
19 April		Charity non-uniform day (£1 donation in aid of Sue Ryder)
25 April-29 April		Y10 exam week
2 May		May day bank holiday
6 May		Y9 DTP and Men ACWY vaccinations
9 May -13 May		Y7 advanced cycling sessions
13 May		Last day for Y11 partnership courses
16 May		Start of Summer GCSE/AS/A2 examinations
25 May	7.00pm	Sixth Form Leavers' Service at Tewkesbury Abbey
26 May		Progress reports issued, Year 10 full report issued
28 May – 5 June		Half term
6 June		Start of term 6

Once again, many thanks for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr G M Watson
Headteacher