16th September 2022

Dear parents and carers

**Welcome back to THS**

Like the rest of the nation our thoughts are with the Royal Family and all who are affected by the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and as per our letter earlier this week, THS will be closed on Monday 19th September for the day of national mourning.

I wanted to write and formally welcome your child back to the high school and congratulate them on making such a positive start to the term.

From their arrival on Wednesday morning they looked impeccable in their uniforms, came into their first assembly in a very ordered fashion, listened attentively and were smiling as they left.

Over the course of the last week I have managed to catch up with many students in their lunchtimes and have enjoyed interacting with them and hearing them talk about their summer holidays.

Thank you for all that you have done behind the scenes in helping to make their return to school go so smoothly. We really do appreciate all the efforts that you have gone to in terms of buying uniform, equipment and supporting them to be organised and ready to learn.

I wanted to use this letter to inform you of the developments at the high school, many of which were shared with families prior to students returning to school, and others that have been introduced with the students on the first day back in their year group assemblies.

Positive Points

We have introduced a new positive points reward system this year and this has been implemented as a direct result of listening to our students and staff.

The majority of our students come to school every day and engage in their learning positively and whilst many are acknowledged for this we recognise that it is not consistent across the school. Therefore, from Monday 12th September all students will receive 15 positive points at the start of each week in recognition of them arriving on time, wearing their uniform correctly and having the right equipment. Students will be able to add to these points during their lessons each day, building on the positive start they are now given at the start of each week.

Myself and Mrs Lane will be meeting with a cross representation of the year groups next week to discuss what rewards students would like to receive and this will then be shared with the tutor reps in each year group for further discussions and decisions to be made.

Parents and students are able to monitor the positive points received by checking on Go For Schools and we will formally celebrate these as often as possible over the academic year. More information on Go For Schools is below.

Go For Schools (Go)

Go For Schools is our platform for holding information about students in the school. It stores attendance, behaviour and academic performance and is accessible to parents and carers and students. It also contains students’ timetables so that families can see what lessons their children have the following day.

Go can be accessed on all kinds of devices including computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones and we would encourage all parents to have access to Go if at all possible.

Login guidance and help sheets are included with this letter but you can also contact our Admin team by email on [adminteam@tiverton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:adminteam@tiverton.devon.sch.uk) or by phone on 01884 256655 if you have any questions.

School reports are currently only available to view on the Go website and not the app but we are working closely with the developers and hope that this function will be available soon.

**Homework**

Homework is an important aspect of learning as it helps to consolidate and/or extend learning which has taken place in the classroom.

Your child’s homework will also be set on Go. A guide to the homework being set is below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Years 7 & 8 | Year 9 | Years 10 & 11 |
| 1 hour per evening  (3x 20 minutes) | 1.5 hours per evening  (2 X 45 minutes) | 2 hours per evening  (2 x 1 hour) |

All students are expected to complete homework as we consider it to be a very important aspect of their learning. We will soon be offering support though a homework club after school on certain days of the week. The timetable will be set for this in the coming weeks and we will communicate this with you shortly. Non-completion of homework could result in your child falling behind and a detention may be set.

Non-attendance to homework detentions will result in a 30 minute whole school detention. If a detention is set, parents and carers will receive a notification via Go.

**Tutor Lesson**

Following the changes to the timings of the school day, we are pleased to let you know that tutor time has now been extended and will last for 30 minutes, starting promptly at 8:30am.

All students are expected to be on school site from 8:25am and a warning bell will sound at 8:27am to signify that it is time for students to go to their tutor lesson in their tutor room.

If students would like to come to school earlier, the refectory is open and will be serving breakfast from 8am. Students are welcome to spend time in the refectory, meet friends and have breakfast in this warm space until the warning bell sounds at 8:27am.

The 30 minute tutor lesson will be divided into two sessions; the first 10 minutes will focus on making sure that tutees are equipped, dressed in the correct uniform and ready for the day ahead. During the remaining 20 minutes students will experience a variety of learning opportunities including assemblies, reading, world studies and PHSE. More information about our exciting reading programme is below.

**Reading Programme**

Reading is a fundamental skill and also a great pleasure and it is our priority at THS to support every student to be able to read fluently.

There are 3 parts to our reading programme:

* A Tutor Lesson reading programme
* Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R)
* Targeted reading interventions

Over the past week I have had the pleasure of dropping into Tutor lessons and have seen the reading programme in action, with tutors reading to their tutees who were all following the story with their own copies of the book. We have taken time to consider the books that are being read over the course of the year, here is a [link](https://tiverton.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Tutor-Reading-Booklet-2022-23.pdf) to the reading programme so that you can see the books that have been chosen for each year group.

To support our D.E.A.R. reading programme we ask that all students must all have a reading book in their bags at all times. For students who don’t have a book please speak to their tutor in the first instance as we have a brilliant librarian and an amazing range of books for our students to access.

**Detentions**

In any school there are times when some students do not comply with expectations and as such may be issued with an after-school detention. Detentions are one sanction which forms part of our [Relational Behaviour Policy](•%09https:/tiverton.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/THS-Relational-Behaviour-Policy-202122-Revised-7.1.22.docx) used to help address concerns and reaffirm our expectations. Parents will receive a notification on Go to let them know about any detentions their child has been issued with.

After school detentions will run for 30 minutes on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Senior Leadership Team detentions will take place on Fridays at 3pm for one hour.

**Warn/Move/Remove**

We expect students to have high expectations of behaviour in lessons. Lessons are for learning and we ask that students respect this in order for our students to succeed. Where behaviour fails to meet our expectations staff will work through a series of stages to support the students with incidents or misbehaviour unless the incident is very serious.

**Warn**  - Verbalised Warning - staff will explain to students, what is going wrong, what needs to be done to resolve the concerns and what the consequence is if this does not happen.

**Move** – Intervention – Staff will give students a final warning and where necessary move a student's seat within the room. Staff will ensure that students are made of the consequence if they are not able to make the right choices.

**Remove** – RESET – where behaviours have not changed, and students have been given all opportunities to correct their behaviour, they will be Reset. Students who are Reset will spend the equivalent of a full day in the Reset.

**PosiTIV**

I really hope you have enjoyed looking through our second edition of PosiTIV which was sent home at the end of last week celebrating all of the great things that are taking place at THS. We hope that your child engages positively in all aspects of school life whilst at THS and appears in future PosiTIV journals.

I would also like to use this opportunity to remind you that you can contact your child’s tutor in the first instance if you have any questions, queries or concerns.

My colleagues and I look forward to working with you over the coming years and supporting your child through their educational journey at THS.

Yours sincerely

Sammy Crook