

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

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Ref: DM/SAH

January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to another term here at TKASA, and indeed a new year, as we move into 2024!

Consultation on the Merger of TPLT and CSET

You will have seen from recent communication on weduc, that we are currently in the consultation period for the merger of TPLT and CSET. The last day of the consultation is 5th February 2024 and may I remind you that if you have any comment to put forward during this period that you can email consultation@theplt.org.uk.

Upcoming Events

Over the next few weeks and months we have several important events happening. As always, we want our parents and families to engage in these events, so please refer to the table below which lists the ones that are upcoming— more details will be published on weduc as the dates get closer.

1st Feb	Year 9 Parents evening
6 th Feb	Year 8 Parents Evening
7 th Feb	TKASA Talent Show
22 nd Feb	Year 9 Options evening
24 th Feb	District Young Chef competition
29th Feb	Year 11 Parents Evening
5th - 8th March	School Production 'Sister Act'
14 th March	Year 7 Parents Evening

This is not an exhaustive list and other events may be added in the coming weeks, so please keep an eye on weduc and other social media platforms for any updates.

Mocks and Revision

Mocks are well underway, as is our custom here, we will be holding a Mock Results Day for students, so that they get a flavour of what it will feel like in August when they receive their real grades. Mock grades will therefore not be shared with students until the Mock Results Day.

Additionally, we will open the school during February half term for selected subject departments to support students with coursework and their studies and then in April we plan to hold our Easter Revision Conference in preparation for the GCSE/A Level exams in May and June. Information regarding the February half term and Easter Conference will be communicated over the coming days/weeks.

If you are a parent of a Year 11 or Year 13 student, please do fully encourage your child to attend our revision sessions, whether that be during P6 lessons after school, or in the school holiday programmes we are organising. The next few months are pivotal in order for them all to prepare effectively for their exam period - at the time of writing this letter, there are only 55 school days left until the exams begin - **attendance every day at school and doing the extra out of lessons will contribute toward better grades and brighter futures for all. We obviously need your support with that.**

Attendance

I make no apologies for mentioning attendance in all of my letters home to parents/carers. You will all be aware, I am sure, that there is a nationwide issue with school attendance, made worse since the Covid

pandemic. I can't stress this enough, how important it is your child is in school every day where possible. The clear links between academic performance and attendance show how important regular attendance is in terms of future career success and therefore life opportunities. If your child is off for one day, that is five hours of learning missed, which may often not be covered again, due to the content subject teachers need to cover in class. Trying to catch up on missed work causes stress to children and hinders them when sitting assessments, tests and exams. We want every student at TKASA to be in every day, albeit we do understand the odd bout of illness during the year may affect that. Nevertheless, we really need your support in ensuring you encourage your child to attend school even when sometimes they may feel reluctant to or are feeling a little 'under the weather'. **As a reminder, 90% attendance may sound okay, but over the five years, from Year 7-11 at school, that would mean an entire six months off school - six months of missed lessons!**

Options

We will shortly be issuing all Year 9s with an Option Booklet which will give them all the information they need to consider their option choices as they move into Year 10. In addition, we will be holding an Options Evening where you will have the opportunity to meet with key staff, both leadership and subject staff, which will help you support your child in making an informed choice. If, after you receive the booklet, you require more information about option choices, please contact Miss Charles, Vice Principal, or the TKASA Careers Office.

Year 10 Work Experience

Thank you to those parents/carers and students who have secured their work experience placement and returned the forms to the careers office for processing and final confirmation. I am aware that there is still a small number of students who have not yet secured their work experience placement. If you are in Year 10 and you have not yet found an employer for your placement, please speak to Mr Wilmot in the Careers Office so that he can support you and point you in the right direction. Can I remind parents that during work experience week, the normal timetable for Year 10 students will be collapsed, so it is essential that the Year 10 students secure their placement. Due to overwhelming levels of enthusiasm among the students, the deadline for completed forms to be returned to the careers office will be extended to the end of March in order to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate, however, the sooner you return the forms, the better, as some placements are popular and places are therefore limited.

First Aid/Medical/Toilets

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated full-time member of staff responsible for first aid here at TKASA. This enables us to deal with medical emergencies and accidents as and when they happen. Can I remind you that first aid/medical is there for emergencies only and is not intended to be a stop off at social times for students or a way of avoiding lessons. We need to keep the service available to those who really need it. In addition, this term, we are no longer dispensing paracetamol to students. If any student needs medication during the school day, please contact us and speak to Mrs Butler who will process your request.

Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Ms Barrett in the English Department and Mr Hartland in the site team, who started with us this term. Two great additions to the staffing body at TKASA!

Governor roles within our Academy Council

We are always looking for members of our community to help contribute toward improving things at TKASA. Being a governor member of our Academy Council is a voluntary role, but one which is both rewarding and interesting, please do contact us at school if you are interested. Please email sallyanne.herrington@tkasa.theplt.org.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support as always, it makes a massive difference! Building and maintaining strong, positive relationships between school and home is pivotal in supporting all our children to succeed. If you do have any questions, please send us a message via weduc or email info@tkasa.theplt.org.uk or telephone the school in the normal way.

Yours faithfully



Dan Milford
Principal