

Belong. Believe. Be Proud.

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Principal: Mr Dan Milford



Ref: DM/SAH

12th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you in the middle of a very busy, but rewarding term. As always we are proud of everything that has been happening here at TKASA, whether during lesson time or throughout our extensive P6 enrichment and extracurricular time. We are immensely proud of our school and our students who strive to get it right every day.

Attendance

As mentioned previously, we are focusing on student attendance as one of our key priorities this term. We are very mindful that attendance remains a national issue, but we are also mindful that the best place for students to learn and to grow as a person, as well as to gain good outcomes, is here in the classroom. It is a scary thought that 80% attendance over a 5 year period of school equates to a student missing a whole year of school statistically. I think many parents would think that 90% attendance is good, but a 90% attendance over a five year school period equates to missing 6 months of schooling. I am sure that most parents would not want their child to miss six months' worth of schooling, but may often consider 90% attendance to be fine. Can I urge us all to make every effort to improve attendance so that we can support our students to reach their potential. Thank you for your support with this.

Parent Revision Session

We have been very fortunate to secure funding to put on a session for Year 11 parents on revision techniques. This session is being run by an external company who have considerable experience in this field. The session will focus on ideas to support your Year 11 child through the upcoming exam period with hints and tips on study skills and maneuvering through this exam period. If you are a parent/carer of a Year 11 student, please come along to the hall on **Wednesday 13th March at 6.00pm** to find out more and join in on the evening. Senior leaders from school will also be in attendance should you have any specific questions around exams.

Summer Term Exams

With **only 28 school days until the first exam of the summer**, preparations are well underway with opportunities for P6 revision, our Easter Conference, targeted intervention, to name but a few of the support measures we are putting in place for our Year 11s and our Year 13s. If you are a parent of a Year 11 or Year 13 student, please do encourage your child to attend P6 sessions and the Easter Conference as the next few weeks are crucial for preparing for upcoming exams. I have also recently met with all the Departmental Heads to ensure that teaching staff in each subject area are doing everything they can to support students in this last final push in the run up to the exams.

Year 6 Transition

Plans are underway for our Year 6 Transition with our Welcome Evening next term and the Parent/Carer Transition Evening in late June for all year 6 students from our feeder schools. These transition days are such a positive and rewarding few days and gives the opportunity for our new students, due to start with us in September, to experience TKASA before they arrive after the Summer holidays. This is also a chance for you to come to the Parent/carer evening and meet key staff and is a good introduction to getting to know everything about our school. Following on from the success of the community evening last year, which was held in transition week, we plan to hold another this year. Details of all of these events will follow soon.

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. It has been brought to my attention that there are still a significant number of children who access the medical room during lesson time. Can I remind all parents 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. Please encourage your child to only access medical services during social times, unless it is an emergency.

Additionally, can I ask you to remind your child that it is important they visit the toilet during breaks or lunches or during lesson changeover. We do spend considerable amounts of time requesting students return to lessons who are visiting the toilet every lesson during a school day. Children who have specific medical requirements are issued toilet

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pass cards, which can be used to excuse themselves from lessons, but we do need your support in ensuring students do not abuse the system by going to the toilet during lesson time, often every lesson of the day.

Options

For those of you who have students in Year 9 who are choosing their options, can I remind you that the deadline for handing the form in to school is **Friday 15th March**. The form must be in so that we can finalise the information and confirm choices with the students after the Easter break. The form is available on the website by following this link. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b9242f05b409b0426915646/t/65dc692953df760448daa163/1708943657415/2024+Year+9+options+form.pdf>

Uniform

As we move into the summer months, with the hope of much warmer weather after Easter, can I ask that you all continue to send your child into school dressed smartly and within the uniform guidelines. Leggings are not permitted, as students should wear school trousers, skirts must be knee length, tailored knee length shorts are permitted, trainers of any description, except all black leather e.g Nike Air Force, are not allowed and blazers and ties are compulsory. If students arrive in school dressed in the incorrect uniform, we will issue the correct uniform to students from our Pre Loved Uniform store or from additional stocks we have at school. If a student refuses to adhere to the uniform dress code and/or refuses to wear uniform that is lent to them, we will contact you to ask for your support.

School Updates - Sixth Form Centre

We held a very successful Sixth Former for a Day event last week, where Year 11 students experienced the Sixth form with dedicated sessions in subjects of their choice. We anticipate good numbers of admissions in sixth form again this year and would encourage you to apply for your place if you have not already done so.

BoS Rotary Young Chef Competition

At the end of February, for the second year running, we hosted the Rotary Club District Young Chef final. Competitors from all over the district arrived for an intense morning of cooking for some esteemed judges. Poppy Mackay, one of our Year 11 students, was crowned the winner and is now about to compete in the Regional Final in Cardiff in late March. Amazing effort from Poppy and we wish her all the best for the next stage of the competition.

School Production

This term we are pleased to report a very successful school production of **Sister Act**. Those of you who were fortunate enough to have seen the show will know how amazing it was. The show was a sell out and each evening we had walk in tickets only on the week of the show. If you were one of those people who were turned away on the night, my sincere apologies, but this is testament to how amazing and popular the show was.

The students were amazing, from those who were on stage, to those working behind the scenes, in the orchestra and those who helped with all kinds of jobs during the week. We are very grateful to all of the staff and students involved for all their hard work and if your child was involved, please congratulate them for me.

Staff Farewells

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to colleagues who are moving on to other schools – Mrs Clough, Mr Whiteoak and Mrs Nicol are all moving onto pastures new and we wish them well for the future.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Lloyd, in the SEND/Learning Support Team who is retiring after 37 years working in our school, yes I did say 37 years!! Mrs Lloyd has been an incredible asset to our school over the years and has served the school well, and I know she will be missed by so many parents, staff and students. We send her our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Next term

Finally, as we move toward the Easter holidays and the final two terms of the school year, can I remind you that we have so many things to look forward to between now and July. Sports Day, Year 11 and 13 Proms and Leavers Events, Sixth Form Charity RAG Week, Work Experience, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and plenty more. Life at TKASA never stands still with the offer of the best possible opportunities for learning and curriculum enrichment.

As always, thank you for your continued support to the school, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the usual channels. Enjoy the final few weeks of term and also the Easter break when it arrives.

Yours faithfully



Dan Milford
Principal