

16 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

This half term has been extremely busy for both students and staff. I am able to report Year 7 have settled in very well under the leadership of Mr Niall Clinton, Head of Year who has joined us from Hounslow School, Southampton. The hall was full for our 'Meet the Tutor Evening' two weeks ago, I very much hope Year 7 parents found this useful. If you missed the evening please contact Mr Clinton and he will be more than happy to brief you.

In late September our Open Evening was a vibrant event which always seems to have a 'festival' atmosphere, students and staff showcased their work and explained to parents/carers and years 5 and 6 how effective learning is at TBS. As I said to the attendees, we do not schedule specific 'Open Days' as we have found parents/carers like to visit the school at their own convenience. We are very happy to offer tours before school, during the working day or early evening. If you have friends/contacts who are interested in having a look round, please ask them to contact the school to make an appointment. There is nothing better than seeing the school in the working day, 'in action'.

This week our first international trip of the year, led by Mr Tom Davis, has headed off to Iceland. The trip, for years 10,11,12 and 13 includes The Secret Lagoon, Gullfoss Waterfall, Geysir, The Mid Atlantic Ridge, a Lava Centre and a glacier as well as an excursion to see the Northern Lights. Wow!

In complete contrast, the Performing and Creative Arts Team, led by Mrs Bowerman-Ellis are travelling to Los Angeles on 26 October. The visit commences in Santa Monica and includes a trip to Hollywood; acting, dance and art workshops as well as a day at Universal Studios. The PCA team have visited the United States before as they previously took a trip to New York. We wish them well in LA and hope students and staff on both trips have a fabulous time. Those of us remaining in the UK will no doubt enjoy a well-earned half term break!

In my July letter to parents/carers I explained the new Head Boy and Girl had been appointed. New tutor group representatives have now been elected so the Student Forum is in full swing, they spent their first meeting discussing charity fundraising.

Rosie Platts (Head Girl) and Mansoon Tamang (Head Boy) have also been lucky enough to attend a Leadership Conference at Wellington College, Berkshire. I would like to thank Mr Mark Mortimer, the new Headmaster at Bryanston for providing the students with this opportunity. TBS has always had links with Bryanston and Clayesmore and I invited Mark to join me at TBS in September so we could discuss how to continue the partnership for the benefit of our students. To this end the Senior Leadership Team are meeting with Mark's Leadership Team shortly and will be looking at opportunities to collaborate over the course of this, and future years. Of course, there is already a major event planned in the diary for November when some of our talented students will perform Les Misérables in Coade Hall with Bryanston students. The rehearsal schedule has been busy so well done to the cast for



their commitment to this project; a big thank you also to Mrs Bowerman-Ellis for her drive and enthusiasm.

Our newsletter has a round-up of this half term's sporting success but a particular mention to our equestrian team who have had a lot of success recently. Photos are on our website including a close-up shot of the new saddlecloths (numnahs) bought for the students by the Trust funds of the late Mr John Paulley, MBE.

Moving on to more strategic matters, late in the summer term the Governing Board approved our new **Vision Statement**:

For every member of our community to show respect, high levels of ambition and effort, a positive attitude and perseverance in all they do.

and also our new **Values**:

- *Respect (ensure we are polite, well-mannered and respect the rights we all have).*
- *Effort (challenge ourselves, be ambitious and do our best).*
- *Attitude (have a positive attitude in every situation).*
- *Perseverance (show resilience and determination).*

These are reflected in our Merit system and relate to/underpin everything we do as a school.

We are delighted with how things are going at TBS, parental feedback from surveys completed last year was exceptionally positive and we now know our ex Year 11 and ex Year 13 students performed exceptionally well when measured against students across the country.

Headlines for our 2019 Year 11 cohort are as follows (these will be formally released by the Department for Education later this term):

Progress 8	+0.27 (significantly above the national average)
Attainment 8	48
4+ English and Maths	65%
5+ English and Maths	45%
Grade 9's	65 of these were achieved – they are only awarded to the top 4.5% of students in the country.

We are particularly thrilled **we are 'closing the gap' between the performance of students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and other students nationally** which was an issue OFSTED identified in January 2018. Students of **all** abilities performed extremely well in comparison to other students nationally, with **high ability students performing 'well above' the national average.**

For the **second year running students have achieved significantly above the national average** during a period in education which has seen such extensive examination and curriculum change.



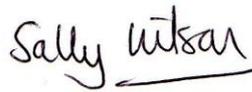
Our students should also be very proud of their attendance. We have spent a lot of time with young people and families to support attendance and this really is reaping rewards; **the attendance of children at TBS is the best across all 19 Dorset secondaries (for the second year running)**. Without doubt, this is reflected in our summer results - students need to be here to learn, mind you there is nothing new in this!

Post 16 performance this summer was also very positive and crucially students were then able to accept places at the destinations of their choice. **Our pass rate was 99.5% with 32% of students achieving the top grades A* - A and 51% achieving A* - B.**

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us about any matter, large or small and thank you again to all of you who work so positively with us to ensure your child is happy and succeeds.

I will write to you again next half term.

Best wishes



Sally Wilson
Headteacher

