



Specialist Arts College
Leading Edge School
School of Creativity

Dear Parents/Carers

14 September 2012

We would like to welcome everyone back after the Summer break and also welcome our Year 7 students, Post 16 students and the members of staff joining our staff team.

Examinations - This year we celebrate yet another tranche of excellent examination results, the best outcomes in the school's history.

At GCSE, 91% achieved 5 A* - C grades with 66% achieving 5 A* - C grades including English and Maths. We are delighted that 166 of our Year 11 students decided to return to our 6th Form.

At A Level and BTEC, 83% achieved A* - C grades; 32% achieved A*/A grades and we had a 99% pass rate across all subjects. Every Year 13 student who wished to do so has gained a place at university with 99% of them being given their first or insurance choice.

Congratulations to all the students and a huge thank you to the teaching staff, support staff and you the parents/carers who have supported and encouraged your children to achieve these outstanding results.

Website - We have been working hard over the summer holiday to develop a much more user friendly website which should be going live over the next few weeks. Our thanks to Mr Nicholls for developing this.

The School Day and Dates for the Diary - Details of our School Day and dates for the diary for this term are at the end of this letter. Attendance and punctuality are very important and we would ask for your support in ensuring that your child(ren) attend school regularly and are not late. Non attendance and lateness can have a great impact on their education and also their ability to communicate with their peers. We have spoken to all students regarding this. Please see the expectations on punctuality and lateness alongside the School Day and Dates for the Diary.

School Uniform - We are extremely proud of the success and achievements of our students, not just academic. We would like everyone to be proud of wearing the correct Thomas Tallis school uniform and respect their appearance. Please could you ensure that your child wears the correct uniform. With effect from September 2012, black trousers should be worn and not charcoal grey trousers. In order to give parents/carers prior notice of the change, a letter was sent to parents last term. The expected school uniform is:

- Black school trousers or skirt. Skirts must be appropriate to wear to school and not be too tight or too short. Trousers must be worn around the waist and can only be school trousers; jeans, leggings or any other type of trouser will not be acceptable.
- Charcoal grey cardigan or v-neck jumper with Thomas Tallis logo (available from the school shop with either a blue or magenta stripe on the collar and pockets).
- Turquoise blue polo shirt with Thomas Tallis logo (available from the school shop).
- PE kit – blue Thomas Tallis t-shirt; navy blue PE crewneck sweatshirt; blue shorts; blue tracksuit trousers.
- We recommend that students wear a comfortable and sturdy pair of plain black shoes.
- Hoodies and hats cannot be worn in school.

Students with incorrect uniform may be sent home or internally isolated for the day.

Mobile phones and headsets may be brought in to school. They must be kept in school bags and should only be used during break or lunchtime. Any student using a phone or headset other than at break or lunchtime will have their phone or headset confiscated. This will be returned at the end of the school week.

The School Day

8.40am	8.50am	Registration or Assembly
8.50am	10.50am	Periods 1 & 2
10.50am	11.15am	Break
11.15am	1.15pm	Periods 3 & 4
1.15pm	2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	3.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	3.10pm	Registration or Assembly

Punctuality

We would be grateful if you could re-enforce the following with your child(ren):

- Any student arriving to registration or assembly after 8.40am will be deemed late
- This will result in one hour's detention after school that day from 3.10pm to 4.10pm. Parents/carers of any student who is given such a detention will be informed during the day about the detention for that afternoon
- A student will work during the hour's detention on making progress in their studies and/or homework and will be supervised throughout.
- If your child is going to be late for school for any issue beyond his/her control please put a note in your child's planner explaining the reason. A senior member of staff will make a fair and valid judgement as to whether a detention is appropriate.
- This sanction will not apply for a student who has a legitimate reason for being late such as a medical appointment. Where possible, please could you request approval in advance via your child's planner. If this is not possible, please write a note in your child's planner on the day that they are late so that your child can come in to school with the note.
- A student who fails to sign in late at Reception and goes straight to their lesson will automatically be given one hour's detention that afternoon.
- When a student is repeatedly late, Mr Avery, Deputy Headteacher for Pastoral Care, will arrange a meeting with the parents/carers.

Dates for the Diary – Autumn Term 2012

Wednesday 26 September	Open Evening (Year 7 Intake September 2013)
Friday 28 September	Years 7, 10 and 12 School Photographs
Wednesday 17 October	Year 13 Parents' Evening
29 October – 2 November	Half Term
Monday 5 November	Students return to school
Wednesday 21 November	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thursday 22 November	KS3 Workshare Evening (PA/VMA)
Monday 3 December	Step Day
Tuesday 11 December	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 12 December	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday 21 December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 7 January 2013`	First day of Spring Term (students return)

Important Notice – Wednesday 26 September – students will leave school at 2.00pm due to Open Evening for Year 7 September 2013 Intake

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ken Jones
Head of School