



4 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the close of the autumn term, I can confirm that school will finish as usual at **3.00pm on Wednesday 19 December 2018** and that the Yellow Bus service will operate at this time. The start of the new academic year is **Thursday 3 January 2019**.

Dates	Events	Dates	Events
Monday 7 January	Year 13 Progress Exams start	18 – 22 February	Half term holiday
Friday 11 January	Year 13 Progress Exams finish	28 January – 1 February	Governors' QA Week
Tuesday 15 January	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 26 February	Year 11 Targeted Parents' Evening
Wednesday 30 January	Year 9 Options Evening	Monday 11 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 4 February	Year 12 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 26 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
12 - 15 February	School Production	Monday 8 April	Spring Concert (7.00pm)
15 – 23 February	Ski Trip to America	15 – 26 April	Easter holiday
20 – 23 February	History visit to Krakow and Auschwitz		

We end the autumn term as we began with our school continuing to be an enjoyable and active place in which to learn. My thanks and appreciation to all our members of staff who continue to be actively involved in providing our pupils with a wide range of opportunities and experiences, making our school the best it can be. The list of achievements at the end of this letter is just a sample of the range of events and achievements we have been involved in. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Christmas Concert on **Wednesday 12 December 2018** at 7.00pm.

### School Improvement

We are currently engaged in a two-day review of school improvement; the two reviewers are Michael Maddison, former HMI and Dr Wendy Bradford, Executive Headteacher and Ofsted registered Inspector. Their focus is on the effectiveness of Leadership & Management in driving up standards across the school and providing strategic direction to school improvement. The review includes a range of meetings with pupils from across all year groups, members of the Senior Leadership Team, Faculty Leaders, members of staff in a range of roles across the school, visiting lessons and scrutinising pupils' work. Soon after the review is completed, a report will be produced and presented to the school's Governors.

### Adverse Weather Procedures

It is once again the time of year when we enter a period of what is likely to be unsettled and adverse weather. It may well be the case that an occurrence of adverse weather leads to an early morning decision whether to close the school. Any decision a school takes to remain open or to close is not always going to be well received. Critical factors include safety, road conditions and the availability of public transport; we remain in direct contact with transport services and are informed when services are cancelled or disrupted.

The responsibility for school closure rests with the Local Authority (LA) for maintained schools such as TSS. However, because of the variation in geography and climate throughout the district, it is normal for the Headteacher to make an individual school closure decision. This decision will be based on a health and safety assessment (both for members of staff and pupils); the LA and the Headteacher will keep the school open if at all possible. Only in exceptional circumstances will the school be closed. If weather conditions are such that the school makes a decision to close before the normal school day starts, then instruction will be given to publish notification between 7.00am and 7.30am in the following ways:



Telephone: 01274 258969  
 Fax: 01274 258970  
 Web: [www.titussaltschool.co.uk](http://www.titussaltschool.co.uk)  
 Email: [enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk)



- Notification of closure through ParentMail
- An update on our school website - [www.titussaltschool.co.uk](http://www.titussaltschool.co.uk)
- An update via Twitter - @TitusSaltSchool
- An update on the Bradford Schools Online website - <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx>
- A school closure message on Radio Leeds

If weather conditions are such that a decision to close is taken during normal school hours, then all parents/carers who have provided us with mobile telephone contact details will be informed by text. In the past, we have allowed older pupils to make their way home immediately but required other pupils to provide confirmation from parents/carers of transport arrangements. This is usually done by telephone. Some staff will remain in school to supervise pupils until they are able to get home.

As you can appreciate, we attempt to ensure we can deal effectively with weather conditions and circumstances arising from this that are beyond our control and I trust you feel reassured that we will do all we can. As a final plea, please do not contact the school switchboard in such situations as we will need this facility to continue critical school business.

### Leave of Absence

In line with DfE guidance, TSS does not authorise holidays during term time. If Leave of Absence is requested for exceptional circumstances, please write to the Attendance Officer giving full reasons for the absence and dates. The school will contact parents/carers directly to arrange a home visit or meeting in school.

### Open Evenings

September's Open Evening experienced high footfall with very positive feedback. The Sixth Form Open Evening held in November had similar success, with our largest number of external pupils attending – all with positive feedback.

### Roundel Car Park

The roundel car park is extremely busy before and after school, with people parking in the hatched areas and in front of other parked cars; this compromises the safety of our pupils and hampers the flow of traffic. There have been instances recently where the behaviour of some drivers has created significant problems. Therefore, I politely request that drivers display caution at all times, give greater consideration to the fact that children are making their way either to school or home at very busy times of the day and do not stop in areas denoted by yellow hatching.

### School expectations

At this time of year it may well be considered to have additional piercings than those the school allows as published in the school's uniform and appearance policy, which has extracts published in the pupil planner and parent planner:

- To avoid health and safety hazards no jewellery is allowed except up to two pairs of studs/sleeper earrings in the earlobe. We discourage ear plugs but they may be worn if they are no larger than point 12 and flesh coloured. Facial piercings, tongue studs or retainers and tragus piercings are not permitted. Staff will confiscate any additional items of jewellery.

I wish to remind parents/carers that if the choice is made to have additional piercings than the school allows in its policy, then a pupil will be asked to remove the additional piercings and the risk of a scar from the piercing is that of the parent/carer.

### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Rewards Postcards

Ahead of the introduction of GDPR on 25 May 2018 the school made a number of adjustments to ensure we are compliant with the changes. As part of this, our practice to ensure we are GDPR compliant is overseen by a company called Safeguarding Monitor and we have our own dedicated Data Protection Officer. One of the most recent changes we have had to make to ensure we are compliant is that we are no longer able to send rewards postcards through the postal service unless they are placed in an addressed envelope. Therefore rewards postcards will now be presented to pupils by the teacher and a message will be sent home via ParentMail. We know how much the rewards postcards are valued and we will continue to acknowledge the achievements of your child in this way.





## Reflections on the autumn term:

Once again we have had a very full, eventful and successful first term of the academic year and this end of term letter cannot do justice in conveying the commitment and hard work of pupils, parents and of course all members of staff working in partnership. I am immensely proud of our pupils and the following is only a part of the range and variety of our school life:

## Year 8 Boys Battling Yorkshire's Rugby Elite

Thomas Pickles, Dan Logan, Joe Murphy and Jay Buchan, were selected to trial for the U13 England Rugby Developing Player Programme (ERDPP). The boys were put forward by school and representatives from Baildon Rugby Club. The gruelling and rigorous selection process took place over the course of three separate sessions over a three month period. The players were assessed in five key areas and were given a score out of 5 for each area.

## Everyone has a story to tell....All write!

Pupils took part in this year's National Writing Day. Creative writing connects people to their own voices, to their homes, their languages and their own stories. Every one of us has stories to tell, memories to recount or secrets to reveal. Ms Chillington, Faculty Leader of English invited the whole school to complete the school - community wide writing experience. Pupils embraced the challenge and took part in the 'free-writing' activity where they wrote for 3-5 minutes just using the phrase 'I remember...' as a leaping off point. As a result some amazing pieces of writing were produced.

## Reading to Win

Our annual Year 7 year-long literacy challenge which started off last July with the Year 6 Transition Summer Reading Challenge was very popular. As well as lots and lots of reading, pupils completed various activities over the academic year such as designing window displays for our Learning Resource Centre, forging ideas for reading nooks around school and creating book marks.

All this reading and activity earned pupils Reading to Win points; accumulated points earn some of the highest scorers a Friends and Family Day out of their choice. Winners took their friends and families to Showcase cinemas, Snozone and Harry Potter World in London!

## Torpedoes strike local business!

After our success in the Dragon Boat Festival, John Galt from Bradford Council, who organises the event, kindly donated a Dragon Boat to school. Although rather tired looking, this full size Dragon Boat has stirred our pupils' excitement. There is lots of work ahead to us to restore the boat to its former glory but we have lots of enthusiastic pupils raring to get started. TSS will be the first school in the UK to have a dry-dock training area, making us the team to beat! Uriah's have been so generous and enthusiastic about the project and we are so grateful for their support going forward. Tracy Clavin, Hardware Sales Manager came into school to offer all the materials required to restore our very own Dragon Boat!

## Success in local Poetry competition!

Working together, Nathan Moore, Bailey Waugh and Sam Stefanuti took 3rd place winners in the under 18's category in the Saltaire Festival Poetry competition. Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to create poetry during English lessons; Ms Davison and Ms Chillington ran the creative writing sessions in response to a call for entries to a poetry competition run by Saltaire Festival. It is the first time the festival team have launched a competition and they asked for previously unpublished work on the theme of 'The world in Saltaire: Saltaire in the world'. A number of pupils wrote poems to enter and Ms Chillington also entered a poem she had written. We were delighted when contacted by the festival organisers to say Nathan, Bailey and Sam's joint poem had been awarded third place and Ms Chillington's poem came second in the over 18s. All the winners were rewarded with a book token and were invited to read their winning entries at the Festival's poetry evening in September at Dandelion Café in John Street, Saltaire.



## Excellence in STEM Award

We are very proud to announce that we have been successful in our bid to receive the Excellence in STEM Award. This prestigious award run through the National STEM Centre and the National Science and Media museum was awarded to school to validate the emphasis on STEM within school. What makes this award even more exciting is that we were the first school in West Yorkshire to receive it!

## Stand Up, Speak Out and Make A Difference

Pupils were presented with a special award at the Midland Hotel on 26 September in recognition for their work on the project SUSOMAD (Stand Up, Speak Out and Make A Difference). The SUSOMAD project which ran in the summer term in collaboration with Bradford Council and the Anne Frank Trust was to engage young people in speaking out and educating others about the effects of prejudiced views against minority groups. Well done to all involved and special congratulations to James Penn in Year 10 who won the SUSOMAD Superstar award.

## Hope for the future

Challenging questions were asked of local MP, Mr Philip Davis, during a school workshop on climate change run by charity, Hope for the Future. We invited the Shipley MP into school to discuss issues relating to air pollution, green energy, fuel poverty and divesting in fossil fuels. Mr Davies, who voted against the Climate Change Act, listened intently to our climate change presentations and shared his views with Eco Club members. It was an invaluable workshop which our pupils enjoyed very much.

## Pupils get masterclass in how to excel in industry

Year 11 pupils have been given top tips from the boardroom to ensure they can take the advantage when considering next steps in education and career choices. Staff from six locally based businesses kindly gave their time to act as panellists for the round table discussion. Pupils were prepared and fired thought provoking questions about the world of work to the panel. They were then given sound advice on how to prepare for an interview, how to deal with nerves and the benefits of taking an apprenticeship. Panellists also fielded questions about their own career pathways, allowing an insight into their professional journeys.

## Sixth Form learners bring history to life in London

When studying the relationship between Charles I and Parliament what better thing to do than hop on the train and head straight for the capital city? 28 Sixth Form learners spent a day at the Houses of Parliament learning more about the execution of Charles I. There was a tour around the Palace of Westminster and a chance to watch debates in both the House of Commons and House of Lords followed by a workshop on Laws and Debating as well as a 45 minute question and answer session with Shipley MP, Philip Davies. Learners positively participated and asked pertinent and insightful questions while finding out about the importance of Parliament in history and also its relevance today.

## Doctor in the house

Dr Almas Ahmed, a former pupil, recently visited with a film crew and met pupils and caught up with some of the teachers that inspired her to be the best she could be. Dr Ahmed hit the headlines for inventing acid-attack proof make up, an idea she had while in university after hearing about the model Katie Piper show suffered extensive burns in an acid attack. Dr Ahmed was being filmed as part of a documentary looking at her 10 year journey to get the product which works just like regular make-up but is heat proof and acid proof into the market place.

## Childnet conference

TSS held the first ever regional Digital Leaders conference hosted by Childnet. Three primary schools and three secondary schools attended to celebrate all the hard work the digital leaders are doing within their schools and communities to promote online safety. The Leaders shared their ideas with everyone and then took part in workshops that aimed to help develop their leadership skills and gave them ideas and ways in which they could continue to share and deliver information. There was also an awards ceremony at the end to acknowledge those digital leaders who have been working extremely hard and made a positive contribution.





# Titus Salt School

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BD17 5RH

## Matty Wilson

Matty has qualified for the prestigious 2020 European Wheelchair Basketball trials; he continues to impress with his skill and love of the game. Invited to attend the GB u22 Men's Trial in Sheffield in December, Matty will fight hard for a place on the team. Having made tremendous progress over the past couple of years, Matty deserves this recognition and the chance to prove he is ready for this new challenge. We wish him the very best of luck on the day and we are confident that all his hard work, dedication and determination will pay off.

On behalf of all TSS staff, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout what has been another successful term.

I wish you all a peaceful festive time and a very happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Ian Morrel  
Headteacher



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