



13 December 2019

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 Friday 20 December 2019** and that the Yellow Bus service will operate at this time. The start of the new academic year is **Monday 6 January 2020**.

Spring term - dates for your diary

Monday 6 January

Tuesday 14 January
Wednesday 22 January
Monday 27 January
Friday 31 January
Tuesday 4 February
11, 12 and 13 February
17 – 21 February
Monday 24 February
2 to 6 March
Monday 9 March
Tuesday 24 March
Wednesday 1 April
6 – 17 April

Start of term - All students to attend school at 08.50

Year 9 Parents' Evening
Year 9 Options Evening
Year 13 Progress Exams start
Year 13 Progress Exams finish
Year 12 Parents' Evening
School Production
Half term holiday
Year 11 Parents' Evening
Governors' QA Week
Year 7 Parents' Evening
Year 8 Parents' Evening
Spring Concert (7.00pm)
Easter holiday

We have had a very busy and active autumn term, including a range of visits in Art, Geography, RS and STEM subjects; Open Day, which once again proved very popular and extremely busy; involvement in Bradford Manufacturing Weeks; national Anti-Bullying Week; Environmental Awareness Week; Careers and IAG events; Sixth Form Open Evening; Parents' Evenings; Year 7 Review Day; Restart a Heart Day; curriculum visits, workshops; a "Deep Dive" review into English (Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 October 2019) by external educational consultants: The purpose of the visit was to conduct a 'deep dive' into English using the new Ofsted framework; a two-day school improvement review (Thursday 14 and Friday 15 November 2019), which had two key strands: Focus 1: the quality of education in a number of faculty areas through a curriculum exploration of each of these subjects; Focus 2: the impact of initiatives and leadership to strengthen the quality of education; most recently, our termly Governors' QA week which focused on the effectiveness of a Spiral Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and finally our Year 11 pupils are in the closing stages of completing their Year 11 Progress Exams which will have given them an experience of what the Year 11 examinations will be like in the summer and also highlight areas they need to focus on in readiness for these.

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 18 December 2019** at 7.00pm.

School Improvement

As mentioned above, we have had three reviews of the school this term. The first review was conducted by B11, an Ofsted registered organisation of Educational Consultants; the purpose was to conduct a detailed review into English using the recently revised Ofsted inspection framework. A report on the review was presented to the Full Board of Governors and an action plan has been produced by Mrs Chillington, Head of Faculty English which is subject to the school's quality assurance process. It was reported by the review team that they were impressed by the positive attitude and professionalism of all members of staff involved in the review as well as the attitudes and achievements of our pupils. The second two-day review of school improvement was completed by MEC; Dr Michael Maddison, former HMI and Dr Wendy Bradford, Executive Headteacher and Ofsted registered Inspector. The review

focused mainly on three Faculty areas and included 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. Again, a report from the review has been presented to the Full Board of Governors and action plans are in place to continue to drive forward our agenda of school improvement.

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.

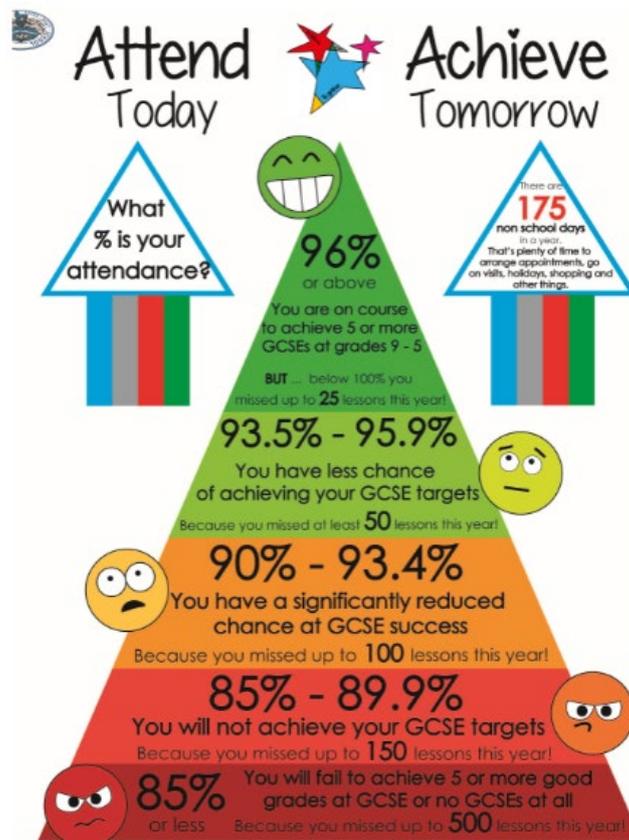
The responsibility for school closure rests with the Local Authority (LA) for maintained schools such as TSS. However, because of the variation in geography and climate throughout the district, it is normal for the Headteacher to make an individual school closure decision. This decision will be based 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:

- Notification of closure through ParentMail
- An update on our school website - 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. Attendance is a key area of focus for our school and there has been an increase in the number of family holidays being taken during term time which is adversely affecting our ability to meet our target. Below is a copy of the message we give to pupils based on national statistics:



Reporting incidents to Police

At a recent meeting of Headteachers and Principals we were informed of Home Office regulations concerning possession of what is termed a "bladed article" which covers bladed or sharply pointed articles or any other offensive weapons which are found in the possession of pupils at school. The advice to schools from Bradford Local Authority is: "Persons are prohibited from having with them in a public place any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed. This prohibition has been extended to cover school premises under Section 139A of the Prevention of Crime Act." The advice also states: "Recent guidance from the Home Office has determined that possession of knives and other offensive weapons within a school should not be dealt with under the Schools Protocol and National Crime Recording Standards as has previously been the case. In all cases where possession of a knife or other offensive weapon occurs within school, a crime will be recorded by police and investigation carried out. The offence should no longer be dealt with purely under school rules, policies and procedures. Schools should report all cases where pupils are found to have knives in their possession to the Police, ideally a Safer Schools Officer if available, to ensure that any offences are fully investigated." (Extract from Bradford Schools Online)

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.

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. I am immensely proud of our pupils and the following is only a part of the range and variety of our school life:

Restart a Heart

All Year 7 pupils took part in Restart a Heart Day in October. St John's Ambulance volunteers visited school to demonstrate how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Over 160 school across Yorkshire took part this year, making it the biggest event yet! Lead volunteer, Adam Drinkall said: "We had a fantastic day teaching Year 7 the important life-saving skill of CPR as part of this year's Restart a Heart Day. The pupils were responsive, respectful and enthusiastic, they were all up for giving CPR a go!"

Careers Panel

Year 9 and Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to seek advice from a panel of experts. Staff from seven locally based businesses and higher education establishments kindly gave their time to act as panellists for a round the table discussion. The panel of experts included Faraha Khan, Hallmark Cards, Mark Gill, Headway Recruitment, Carole King, Provident Financial PLC, Sarah Baker, Stickyeyes, Matthew Ricardo, The Tutor Doctor, Dermot Bolton, University of Bradford and Peter Wardyn from Fives Group.

Careers Fair

On Friday 8 November we held a careers fair in school for our Year 9 and Year 11 pupils; giving them an insight into higher education and employment. We had many specialists in school from across many sectors. Our exhibitors list was Anarchy Cinema, Appris, the Army, Bradford City Council, Bradford City Football Club, Fives Group, Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), Keighley College, Leeds Arts University, Leeds City College, Leeds Museums and Galleries, Leeds Trinity University, Marie Curie, Provident, Qube Learning, Raven Computers, Royal Navy and the University of Bradford. We also had the pleasure of seeing some alumni, Pishdad Modaresi and Haaris Ajaz who run their own successful video production company, Anarchy Cinema, creating videos for clients from all around the world, great role models to our current pupils. We also welcomed Bradley Lount; representing Leeds Trinity University, a side line job whilst undergoing a degree in Sport Science. The event was a huge success and our thanks go to all the higher education establishments and businesses that came along to support our pupils and of course our very own Mr Bird for the organisation.

Awards Event

It was a fantastic afternoon's celebration at our Literacy and Maths Summer Challenge Event. Winners were invited to the LRC to collect their prizes. It was great to see pupils congratulating each other and praising each other for their efforts. Pupils excelled, going above and beyond in tasks that were set, with a high number of entries this year.

Climate Change Week

We held a Climate Change week in school to emphasise the climate issues we are all facing. There were lots of activities taking place, superb assemblies were delivered by our amazing Eco club members, who did a fantastic job of getting their message across, which was; 'Titus Salt School has declared a Climate Emergency. Everything we do in school will be done while considering that the climate is changing and the need to act.' Year 8 had literacy workshops with Emily Diamond focusing on the subject. Friends of the Earth came into school to deliver their climate science and action plan to forty Year 7 pupils. Year 11 pupils who took part in the recent national climate strikes and some selected Year 12 Geographers met with Cllr Susan Hinchliffe to discuss Bradford Council's view on Climate Emergency and what Bradford Council are doing to tackle the problem.

Jay Buchan - Year 10

Jay has been selected to play for Leeds United Youth development team, he is currently playing above his age grade and is doing exceptionally well.

Titus Salt reach the regional finals

Congratulations to the amazing U13 team that competed in the Bradford Girls' Football Cup recently and brought home the winning trophy. It was a tough competition, but our girls were outstanding. After winning their group they went on to beat Appleton Academy in the semi-final. It was a nail biting final against Hanson, they went 1-0 down but managed to get it back to 1-1, then Hanson scored again taking it to 2-1, the girls remained calm and their resilience paid off with an equaliser in the last minute. In the golden goal five minutes the girls defended well to hold the score at 2-2. Remaining calm for the penalties, our amazing goal keeper Lucy made a magnificent save, then Lola went onto score the winning penalty! The team will now represent Bradford, in Bradford City kit at the regional finals at Middlesbrough Football Club after Christmas. Well done girls!

Emily James – Year 11

Emily has successfully applied to the Engineering Development Trust 2020 to attend a residential at Edinburgh University next year. After attending a three-day residential at Southampton in July for aspiring young engineers, Emily continues to build on her extra-curricular STEM portfolio alongside expanding her knowledge of the subject.

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