



8 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter and to confirm our arrangements for the start of the summer term:

**Monday 29 April** - Start of term, all pupils to attend at 08.50.

As we start the new term we hopefully welcome warm weather and pupils wearing their summer uniform! As Easter is later this year, we change to our summer uniform after the Easter break, which means the **Titus Salt School polo shirt can be worn from Monday 29 April 2019**.

I am mindful of our pupils who are preparing for A Level and GCSE examinations which start on Monday 13 May 2019. I have no doubt that many pupils will be taking the opportunity to complete courses of study and carry out revision. I appreciate this is a particularly pressurised time of year; there are deadlines to meet and careful prioritisation required in order for pupils to feel confident going into their examinations. I wish all our pupils the very best with their examinations.

**Aerosol ban** – I wish to issue a reminder that the use of aerosols is banned in school as when used extensively in confined spaces the propellant gas triggers the school alarm. Although our evacuation procedures have proven to be effective, these 'false' alarms cause unnecessary disruption to the school. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child does not bring aerosols on to the school site. As such, any pupil known to be in possession of an aerosol will be given a whole school detention and the aerosol will be confiscated.

**Lockdown** – we successfully completed another test of our lockdown procedures on 2 April 2019; a number of points have been raised that we will address ahead of our next practice in the summer term. I appreciate that the mention of lockdown can cause a level of anxiety for some which is why I ensure you are informed ahead of the practice however it is likely that the practice in the summer will be held without notification to test further our response and procedures. I am aware that some pupils felt that more extreme action should have been taken during the lockdown practice but the test is one of systems. I wish to stress that lockdown can be put in place due to adverse weather conditions or an accident in the local area which means doors and windows have to be secured but school would continue as usual.

**ParentMail** - our communications and information system was introduced a year ago and continues to be successful with ninety-one per cent of families registered for a ParentMail account; ninety-seven per cent of families receive emails and sixty-nine per cent of families are using the mobile app (we strongly recommend downloading this free app to your smartphone or tablet). In January we also introduced the parent's evening appointment booking function; with our last three evenings booked by parents on ParentMail and all have been successful. Many thanks for your support with this improved service and if anyone would like assistance in registering, please contact Mariska Peers, our Marketing and PR Officer.

**Safety** – if you are collecting your child by car at the end of the school day, could we request that you do **not** park blocking the entrance to the school bus turning circle/car park. This is a very busy area at the end of the day and cars waiting or parking across the entrance endanger the safety of pupils and stop cars and buses from entering and leaving the area safely.

**Modern Foreign Languages** - this is a time of year when all schools begin to implement plans for the new academic year. We recently completed a review of our curriculum to ensure that we remain broad and balanced in our offer which includes three modern foreign languages; a survey of local schools shows that we are the only school offering three languages at GCSE and A Level; the majority offer only one or two. We will continue to offer three modern foreign languages for option at GCSE and A Level however from September 2019 we will be changing our curriculum offer to two languages in Year 7. The study of a modern foreign language will be a single language course of study in Years 8 and 9 which if chosen as an option for GCSE will have given a greater depth of study. We recently conducted a survey of all Year 7 pupils with regard to the current modern foreign language they are studying; the option was to continue studying their current language or opting for a different language to study in Years 8 and 9. The outcome from the survey, based on pupil choice and preference will reduce the number of classes studying French and increase the number of classes studying Spanish in Year 8 from September.



**Climate Change and Eco Club** – on 15 March 2019 we held a successful climate change workshop with representatives of Friends of the Earth and a member of the Green Party. This was organised to coincide with the Climate Change Strike Day. The aims of the workshop were to educate the pupils further about the causes and consequences of climate change and work with them on ideas about how this information could be spread across the wider community. Since this event a number of pupils have been invited to attend the Bradford Council open meeting in July to discuss the impact of climate change and how the Bradford Emergency on Climate Change will be enacted. I have arranged to meet with pupils who have a strong opinion on climate change and members of our Eco Club to discuss further steps the school can take to minimise the adverse impact a school has on climate change.

**Calendar** - The following gives an indication of additional key events in the summer term

- 1 May, Year 7 Geography trip
- 6 May, Bank holiday
- 13 May – 30 June, external examinations
- 17-18 May, Year 9 DofE Bronze
- 23-26 May, Spanish exchange to Madrid
- 24 May, Year 13 Leavers' Lunch
- 27 May - 31 May, Half term holiday
- 7-8 June, DofE Bronze
- 12-14 June, Year 12 Geography residential
- 17-28 June, Year 10 examinations
- 18-21 June, Year 8 Beverley Park residential
- 28 June, Sixth Form Prom
- 1 July, Arts Week
- 1-2 July, Sixth Form Taster Days
- 1-5 July, Year 12 examinations
- 3 July, Y6 Transition Day
- 3-5 July, DSP residential
- 4 July, New Parents' Evening
- 4 July, Art & Photography Exhibition Evening
- 4-5 July, Y9 Bronze DofE
- 8 July, Year 12 Enrichment Week
- 8 July, KS3 Awards Event
- 8-9 July, Y9 Bronze DofE
- 8 July, Y9/12 Mock interviews (Industry)
- 10-11 July, Year 7 Geography trip
- 11 July, Y10 Mock interviews (Industry)
- 12 July, Year 11 Prom
- 12 July, Y10 Industry Day (Workshops)
- 13 July, Sports Day
- 15 July, Year 7 Literacy Awards
- 15-18 July, Year 10 targeted work experience
- 15-18 July, Year 12 work experience
- 15-18 July, Y12 DofE Bronze (A) expedition
- 17 July, Arts reward trip
- 18 July, Year 12 Results Day
- 18 July, Post-18 career planning
- 15 August, A Level Results Day
- 22 August, GCSE Results Day

As you can see, we look forward to yet another very busy and productive term. This is always a good time to look back on the events and achievements of the previous term with staff, pupils and parents/carers. The following are a few of the achievements of our pupils:

### Engineers of the future

2018 was the 'Year of Engineering' and every Year 9 pupil had the chance to be an engineer at a STEM focus day. Activities including hovercraft building, robotics and making a replica London Eye using paper. Pupils had to consider the various stages of the engineering process, from design and prototyping through to construction and testing. Every pupil was able to engage in some aspect of the engineering process and a great deal of fun was had by everyone involved!

### Royal Horticultural Society's Green Plan-it Challenge

A five-strong, enthusiastic team of Year 9 pupils worked together to design a garden by entering the Royal Horticultural Society's Green Plan-it Challenge. The Year 9 team won the overall award for the best design with the judges impressed by their inspirational sensory garden and their enthusiasm. There were some exceptional entries from the ten teams who took part and both groups from TSS did very well, but Year 9 clinched the overall winner's title. We are now applying to the RHS for funding to turn their design into reality.

### Reading Together

Year 7 pupils are taking part in book groups in their weekly reading lessons. Groups of between three and eight pupils are reading a book of their choice: reading together in the lessons, reading more at home and then discussing what they have read back with their peers. The groups are self-run, each one having a leader and deputy-leader to keep track of the group's activities. The aim is to engage all the pupils with reading by allowing them to choose the books and run the groups themselves, away from the classroom and in the relaxed





environment of the library. Group reading is a great social activity, with keen and able readers helping those who may struggle to stay focused, and encourages deeper thinking and questioning.

#### **Pupils offered advice on STEM careers**

Over 40 pupils from Year 7 and 8 took part in an exciting STEM careers carousel event. The cream of the crop from local STEM related businesses were in attendance. With a captivated audience, representatives gave advice and guidance, talked about everyday life working in a STEM related role and consulted on the personal qualities STEM employers are looking for. Thank you to local businesses, Yorkshire Water, Produmax, Trans Union, NG Bailey and Christeys. Our guests were extremely impressed by how attentive our pupils were and the interesting questions they raised, showing that our pupils were inspired by their visit.

#### **Bradford Schools Cross Country Championship**

TSS had representatives from all year groups take part in the Cross Country Championship this year. Congratulations to all our pupils that took part in January at Northcliffe Park. We had some amazing results from the event which showcased our incredible athletes. Our Year 7 girls achieved 3rd overall.

#### **Safer Internet Day**

Will, Year 7, was invited to be youth keynote speaker at the Childnet's Safer Internet Day event held in London. Digital Leader, Will did an amazing job sharing his idea and discussing online safety. Will met Margot James, Minister for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and was also interviewed and filmed for BBC News and BBC Own it.

#### **Pupils invited to London finals of The Ryman National Enterprise Challenge**

We are delighted to announce that a group of Year 7 pupils will travel to Wembley Stadium to compete in the prestigious Ryman National Enterprise Challenge, the UK's largest school enterprise education competition. Year 7 pupils took part in a full day session where the whole year group was divided into small groups and asked to design a logo, put together a business plan and present their ideas to a panel of judges as well as their peers. The challenge took pupils out of their comfort zone, showcasing their confidence, ambition and collaborative skills. The day was a great success keeping pupils engaged, motivated and enthused. Congratulations to the winners Molly, Emilia, Jack and Harvey who will take their winning business plan down to London in July and compete against other schools from across the country.

#### **Pupils speak out about Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Year 8 pupils, Lillian and Gemma, both Wellbeing Peer Mentors, attended the first ever joint Health and Social Care & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 5 February, to speak to Bradford Councillors about why Mental Health and Wellbeing is so important to them. Lillian and Gemma were also interviewed by BBC Look North about their work as Peer Mentors.

#### **The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme**

Six of our Year 12 learners proved that they are 'brilliant' by completing a programme of university-style tutorials with a PhD tutor. 'The Brilliant Club' is an award-winning charity that exists to increase the number of pupils from under-represented backgrounds progressing to highly-selective universities. Their 'Scholars Programme' matches pupils with a PhD tutor, who delivers 6 tutorials on a topic relating to their PhD thesis. The learners all completed a course on Philosophy in the Autumn Term. Each learner tackled their final assignment with determination and they all achieved at least a grade of 2:2 - which means they are performing to an excellent standard at A-level. Their achievements are particularly notable as none of them study Philosophy or a similar subject at A-level!

#### **Women Who Wander**

Two, Year 13 English Literature learners have had poems published in a booklet promoting women's engagement with the rail industry. Iris and Antonia, were part of a larger group who worked with Northern Rail and Community Rail Lancashire to design a rail journey that celebrated women's achievements. Accompanied by Community Rail Education Development Officer, Karen Bennett, the group took advantage of free train travel to visit Hebden Bridge, Heptonstall and Manchester. The poems came out of the experiences and discoveries of the day and are published in the Women who Wander booklet which was launched in Liverpool on International Women's Day.



### **First Story, 100-Word Winner!**

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Jaimie, Year 7, has won the First Story 100-Word Story Competition. The competition, now in its fifth year is open to all First Story pupils aged 11-18. Thirty-five schools from across the country submitted stories and we are very proud to say Jaimie was the overall winner of the competition, a great achievement!

### **Big Bang Fair 2019**

Congratulations to Sixth Form learners, Jordan, Laurence, Jacob and Zak on receiving the title of top performing team from the Yorkshire and Humber region at the Big Bang Fair 2019.

After winning recognition at the regional heats the boys and their invention were put forward to the national finals at the BIG BANG FAIR at Birmingham's NEC. For 3 days our young team of engineers demonstrated their product, an automatic blind system, to companies and thousands of visitors to the fair.

This newsletter highlights some of the vast range of opportunities and achievements that have taken place in just one term; only going to show what an active and forward thinking school we are. It has been another very enjoyable term as Headteacher and my thanks go to the overwhelming support of all staff members. On their behalf, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout what has been another successful term for Titus Salt School.

Yours sincerely

**Ian Morrel**  
Headteacher