



July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the close of the academic year, I can confirm that school will finish at **13.00 on Tuesday 24 July 2018** and that the Yellow Bus service will operate at this time.

The start of the new academic year is **Tuesday 4 September** and we will welcome all pupils as follows:

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>In school between 9.30 and 15.00</b>
<b>Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 13</b>	<b>In school between 13.00 and 15.00 only</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>In school between 10.30 and 12.20 only</b>

The Yellow Bus service will not run in the morning but will operate at 15.00. The lunch break is scheduled for 12.20 to 13.00 - lunches will be available to all pupils wishing to eat at school.

We end the academic year having successfully supported our pupils through their GCSE, GCE and vocational examinations and I am delighted that the examination invigilators once again praised our pupils for their self-organisation and impeccable conduct throughout the examination period. I wish all of our pupils every success in their future and of course, we are looking forward to seeing them again on Results Days: 16 August 2018 for KS5 and 23 August 2018 for KS4, as well as a great many returning to study in our Denys Salt Sixth Form Centre.

**The New Academic Year**

The following gives an indication of some of the key dates and events for the autumn term. Please visit our website for further information: [www.titussaltschool.co.uk](http://www.titussaltschool.co.uk)

Term dates - 2018/2019	Key dates - autumn term
<p><b>Autumn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4 September - start of autumn term</li> <li>▪ 22 to 26 October - half term holiday</li> <li>▪ 20 December to 2 January - Christmas holiday</li> </ul> <p><b>Spring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3 January - start of spring term</li> <li>▪ 18 to 22 February - half term holiday</li> <li>▪ 15 April to 26 April - Easter holiday</li> </ul> <p><b>Summer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 29 April - start of summer term</li> <li>▪ 6 May - Bank Holiday</li> <li>▪ 27 May to 31 May - half term holiday</li> <li>▪ 19 July - last day of academic year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5 September – Full teaching day</li> <li>▪ 6 September - Year 7/Year 10 school photos</li> <li>▪ 17 September – Year 9 school photos</li> <li>▪ 27 September - Open Evening (school closes 13.20)</li> <li>▪ 28 September - Staff Training Day</li> <li>▪ 2 October - Year 11 Steps to Success Evening</li> <li>▪ 9 October - Year 7 Transition Review Day</li> <li>▪ 16 October - KS4/Year12 Awards Event</li> <li>▪ 7 November - Sixth Form Open Evening</li> <li>▪ 13 November - Year 11 Parents' Evening</li> <li>▪ 20 November - Year 13 Parents' Evening</li> <li>▪ 22 November to 23 November - Staff Training Days</li> <li>▪ 26 November to 7 December - Year 11 mock examinations</li> <li>▪ 10 December – Year 7 to Year 11 Rewards Brunch</li> <li>▪ 12 December - Christmas Concert at 19.00</li> </ul>

**Uniform and standards**

When we make plans for the new school year we always consider our school uniform and how standards in this area reflect school values. We are a school that has a focus on Growth Mindset and with this comes an expectation that pupils take responsibility for themselves and their learning which includes being secondary school ready with the correct equipment and in the correct uniform. The vast majority of our pupils wear our school uniform with pride and they look very smart but a small minority still choose to challenge our standards and expectations. I would like to reiterate that only plain black



tailored trousers should be worn. Certain styles and fabrics are not acceptable, e.g. super skinny, hipster, riveted denim, canvas, jeans-style, cropped, ankle grazers, leggings, jeggings and treggings. Please do not assume that if a retailer describes its range as 'school wear' that it matches our expectation. For example, many trousers with stretch material will not have a tailored appearance. In addition, this year our expectation is that pupils wear plain dark socks that cover the ankle. If there is any doubt, please view the examples on our website or contact the Year Team before purchasing uniform. We are a school that is underpinned by strong values and standards and uniform is one way of showing that pupils are part of the Titus Salt School community; thank you for your continued support with this and for helping to ensure we all make the right start.

**School Meals** - We work closely with our catering partner, Innovate, to ensure school meals provide value for money and costs are kept as low as possible. There will be no price rise in September - a school meal will still cost £2.35.

**Attendance** – we have been successful over the last few years in achieving a high level of attendance especially as there have been a number of challenges in the last academic year with regard to illness and severe weather conditions. I am sure you are aware that national statistics show that good school attendance impacts on good GCSE outcomes for pupils. To support your child, we continue to ask that families do not take holidays in term time and continue to encourage your child to avoid taking unnecessary time off from their studies. We appreciate your continued support in this area.

### **Reflections on 2017-2018**

Once again we have had a very full, eventful and successful 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:

- Mr Trusselle and Mr Doughty have provided opportunities for our Eco Club every Thursday after school and our pupils have planted hundreds of trees, revitalised the school pond and wildlife area, planted raised beds with vegetables and achieved the Bronze Award Eco School;
- Mrs Wilson and Mr Graham through Erasmus+ have supported our pupils in completing their third year of the project and finished Level 3 of the Language Learning App – AppytoTeach with plans for a new project with our partner school in Cuxhaven;
- More and more pupils are involved in Duke of Edinburgh supported by Mr Trusselle and his teams of members of staff with expeditions to the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors; our annual outdoor education residential to Bewerley Park proved very successful with 140 Year 8 pupils being challenged in new learning experiences;
- As part of the Essential Skills for Life Programme Mr Robinson entered a Juniors Team for the Dragon Boat Festival alongside the two Members of Staff teams and they won their event making them not only the Champions of the Saltaire Dragon Boat Festival but the National Champions too;
- Mr Green, as Leader of STEM, continues our focus on STEM including in-school and external partner work such as a STEM Focus Year 6 to 7 Transition Day successfully supported by Miss Beardsmore; our pupils have presented some amazing ideas through inventions to tackle pollution in our seas and oceans as well as devices to support with medical conditions with a Year 9 team having successfully completed an Enterprise Product Challenge with Arris Engineering; three of our pupils won first place in the Royal Society of Chemistry Analysts Competition; Year 12 pupils won their event of the Premier Farnell challenge held at Leeds Beckett University and our STEM Club has attracted 40 pupils from Years 7 and 8;
- Our Arts Week has once again been extended to cover two weeks of events and workshops including batik, photography and printmaking, samba band, junk band and DJ performance skills, flash mob, heel O'graphy, Shakespeare workshop and action performance skills workshop;
- We held our annual Spelling Bee with six of our Primary Feeder Schools at Victoria Hall in Saltaire, First Story has seen many pupils work after school to produce a wonderful anthology of stories, poems, six word stories and a surrealist dictionary;

In amongst all of this experience, challenge and learning our pupils have selflessly organised and supported fundraising for numerous causes but I feel most significant has, across the school, been the support for Ella Curtis, Year 10, who will be competing in a cycling event at the 2019 Special Olympics in

Abu Dhabi – it is a reflection of the care and support our pupils have for each other and the pride they take in wanting to help each other achieve.

**National changes to education** - There continues to be significant change in education and we respond positively to these changes for the benefit of all our pupils; forgive me if I repeat things you already know and are familiar with but these changes include: the delegated responsibility of Regional Headteacher Boards and Regional School Commissioners to ensure the government's manifesto on education is accelerated, which includes the Academy conversion process. This includes the increase in the number of Free Schools for Special Educational Needs, Alternative Provision and Sixth Forms; linear examinations for the vast majority of subjects at GCSE and GCE level; the continued use of Best 8 Performance Measures; the use of a 9 to 1 scale for examinations in English and Mathematics from summer 2018 and the introduction of this scale for the vast majority of other subjects; the third year of changes to Key Stage 2 assessments with Scaled Scores and the removal of Levels from Key Stage 3.

**Academy Status** – You may recall from previous letters and information that we were granted Academy status as a Converter Academy within six weeks of application in May 2016. We originally looked to progress a partnership with an academies trust but this did not prove to be successful. We have been working with a number of different partners over the last twelve months and we recently submitted a draft application to the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office to form a Multi Academy Trust and therefore we are in discussions with the Department for Education on what are our next steps. I will, in early autumn, publish a summary of the application after I receive feedback on the draft submission. You may be aware that our application for a Free School Special School was ready for submission alongside a partner bid with another Special School application in Bradford but this was delayed due to the announcement of the general election; the process has been further delayed and we still wait, alongside our partners, as to the next steps. We are aware that only 30 Free Schools will be allocated nationally and therefore the application for Amelia Salt may not be successful in this bidding round.

**Assessment, Target Setting and Monitoring Progress** – In light of the guidance from the DfE on the removal of levels and the introduction of a new KS2 assessment system, we have gone through a lengthy period of consultation with members of staff, in particular, Faculty Leaders to develop a bespoke system of Assessment, Monitoring Progress and Reporting; the development within our system also reflects what parents/carers have asked for. I will issue a detailed report on our system in the autumn.

**Events and Achievements** - The end of a term is always a good time to review some of the events and achievements of the previous few months with staff, pupils and parents/carers involved in a range of events, meetings, sporting action, visits and progress checks in addition to Teaching & Learning. The following is an account of some of the events our pupils have been involved in this term – as usual, thanks to Mariska Peers for providing this information:

#### **Dance Showcase**

TSS held its first ever Dance only event, showcasing the work of KS3, 4 and 5 pupils, including assessment pieces and Dance 21, promoting the inclusive nature of Dance at school. Pupils performed some amazing routines from a range of dance styles and dance forms, including Commercial, Lyrical, Contemporary and original compositions to a live audience in the hall. All funds raised supported the children's cancer charity, CandleLighters.

#### **BBC School Report**

Our Year 9 budding journalists that were involved with BBC School News Report produced some amazing articles covering a wide range of topics such as Animal Rights, Mental Health, Egyptian historical figure and of course Manchester United, the pupils even got to visit the stadium as a reward for all their hard work on the project.

#### **Bradford Sports Awards**

Holly Waxman, Year 10, was crowned Young Female Sportsperson at this year's Bradford Sports Awards. Holly shared her evening with very proud family and friends; she continues to wow everyone with her achievements and progression in diving.

#### **Swimming success**

Pupils took the plunge for the second consecutive year and competed in the Bingley Amateur Swimming Club Schools' Gala in March. Last year team TSS narrowly missed out on the Bronze medal; this year the team swam tremendously and very deservedly clinched bronze position.

### **Royal Society of Chemistry**

Year 12 learners, Elias McLaughlan, Molly Wilkinson and Kieran Lester won first place in the recent Royal Society of Chemistry Analyst Competition at Bradford University in March. Teams were required to undertake various practical analytical determinations based on problems relevant to industrial or social needs. The regional heat involved completing a series of titrations and carrying out chromatographic separations.

### **Biological Sciences**

Year 12 Biology learners were treated to a day of Biological Sciences at Leeds University. Learners gained an undergraduate level experience, working in university labs to solve real world problems. Learners used sophisticated DNA technology to diagnose patients with anaemia and test samples from athletes for performance enhancing drugs.

### **Year 10 Parents' Evening**

Year 10 pupils and their parents and carers were able to ask questions of a panel of representatives from local universities and charitable organisations. Some fantastic conversations took place, with pupils excited about their options after Year 11 and parents keen to find out more about apprenticeships, student finance and UCAS. This small event was a taste of things to come, with a larger 'Future Pathways' evening planned for Year 10 pupils and their families in July. Support was received from Go Higher West Yorkshire; The University of Bradford; The University of Leeds; The University of Law, Leeds; Appris; and Ahead Partnership.

### **Biology Success**

To support the science curriculum Year 10 pupils took part in the Biology Challenge hosted by the Royal Society of Biology. Lewis Forrest received top prize, with the first ever Gold for TSS; Lewis has now been invited to attend an awards ceremony in London to receive his award.

### **Healthy Eating Week**

Healthy Eating week took place in June; with a related focus each day, including having breakfast, five-a-day, staying hydrated, getting active and making a change. Lifetracks lesson were planned around the daily focus together with challenging activities. Thank you to Innovate who supported by introducing a wider range of fruit and veg to their menu during Healthy Eating week

### **Rugby**

TSS were shortlisted for the Spirit of Rugby Award as part of the Yorkshire Rugby Volunteer Awards. This is a great achievement. They had over 350 nominations across all the categories. This is in recognition of the work done by school to promote rugby across all age groups and genders plus our continuing links with our local club, Baildon RUFC and the RFU.

### **Football**

Playing for Guiseley Under 16's Centre of Excellence team, Nathan Newall, Year 11, and his team won their National final, the Junior Premier League National Elite Play-Off final. The unbeaten Guiseley side; came from a goal down to triumph with strikes from Ben Darkins and our very own Nathan.

### **Gymnastics**

Megan Argent, Year 8, Sophie Watmuff and Paige Norman Year 9, have all been selected by their gymnastics club, Saltaire Gym Club, to represent Great Britain at the World Gymnaestrada from 7th-13th July.

It has been a very enjoyable and eventful year and I have no doubt that next year will be similar in that regard. I am very proud of our staff and pupils and what we have achieved together. On behalf of all members of staff, may I take the opportunity to thank you for your support throughout what has been another successful year for Titus Salt School.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Morrel**  
Headteacher