



31 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Term dates

This spring term finishes today, Friday 31 March 2023 at the usual time of 3.00pm and will reopen as usual on Monday 17 April 2023. The next half-term is six weeks and includes two Bank holidays – one on Monday 1 May 2023 and the second on Monday 8 May 2023 in recognition of the King's coronation. In addition, both Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) examinations begin with GCSE Art between 24 and 28 April 2023, followed by A Level Art and BTEC exams 9 to the 12 May 2023 (please see our website for details of the summer examinations timetable which can be accessed using the following link [Titus Salt School - Results](#))

Once again this has been a very busy term with a range of trips, visitors, careers events, Practice Exams, sport fixtures, Performing Arts Spring Showcase, Personal Development Days for Years 8, 10 and 11, Governors' Quality Assurance of our SEND provision, Year 9 Options Evening and the many lunch time and after-school clubs that helps to make our school community a vibrant place to be a member.

School Day

We have recently conducted an internal consultation on several options for the school day in response to the Department for Education (DfE) directive for all schools and academies to have a school week of a minimum of 32.5 hours

I am writing as a reminder, that from September 2023 the start of the school day will change; this is a requirement by the Department for Education for all schools and academies to provide a school week of a minimum of thirty-two-and-a-half-hours. The following extract is from a paper published by the DfE:

By September 2023 at the latest, all state-funded, mainstream schools will be expected to provide a compulsory school week of at least 32.5 hours

[Minimum expectation on length of the school week: information note \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

To comply with this directive, we will change the start of the school day for pupils and students to 8.30am each day:

			Total hours
Monday	8.30am	3.00pm	6.5 hours
Tuesday	8.30am	3.00pm	6.5 hours
Wednesday	8.30am	3.00pm	6.5 hours
Thursday	8.30am	3.00pm	6.5 hours
Friday	8.30am	3.00pm	6.5 hours
Total hours			32.5 hours

Following the consultation on the structure of the new school day for September 2023, the two most popular proposals were further discussed at an SLT meeting and then presented to the Full Board of Governors resulting in agreement of the following:

The school day for September 2023 will be:

Proposal A		
	Time	Minutes
Start of the day for teachers	08.20	
Briefing	08:20 to 08:30	10
Start of the day for pupils	08:30	0
Registration	08:30 – 08:50	20
Period 1	08:50 – 09:55	65
Period	09:55 – 11:00	65
Break 2a and 2b **	11:00 – 11:20	20
Period 3	11:20 – 12:25	65
Period 4	12:25 – 13:30	65
Lunch 4a and 4b **	13:30 – 14:00	30
Period 5	14:00 – 15:00	60
Total hours and minutes each day		5 hours 50 minutes
Total hours and minutes each week		29 hours
Total hours and minutes over 190 days		1102 hours

****Break time and lunch time will remain as two split breaks and two split lunch times**

There is a commitment to work towards the following model for September 2024:

Proposal D		
	Time	Minutes
Registration	8.30- 8.45	15 mins
Core skills	8.45- 9.10	25 mins
Period 1	9.10- 10.10	1 hour
Break 2a and 2b **	10.10-10.30	20 mins
Period 2	10.10- 11.30	1 hour
Period 3	11.30- 12.30	1 hour
Lunch 4a and 4b **	12.30-1.00	30 mins
Period 4	1.00- 2.00	1 hour
Period 5	2.00- 3.00	1 hour
Total hours and minute each day	6 hours 30 mins	
Total hours and minutes each week	32 hours and 30 mins	

****Break time and lunch time will remain as two split breaks and two split lunch times**

As we get to the end of this term, we wish to send a reminder about our expectations regarding our uniform and appearance policy – pupils should not be wearing false eyelashes, acrylic nails or having extreme hair styles, colours, and piercings. We fully accept that such things do not stop pupils from learning, but they are a breach of our policy and ignore our standards and expectations. We appreciate your support and understanding on such matters.

School uniform

In response to the pandemic we, i.e., our school community, made an adjustment to allow pupils to wear their PE Kit to school on days they have PE as well as on days they had extra-curricular sport. Through a consultation process it was agreed that pupils would continue to wear their PE Kit as a school uniform on days they have PE but not on days they have extra-curricular sport. On all other days pupils should wear the school uniform.

In response to the directive from the Department for Education (DfE) we changed our school uniform to reduce the number of items that have the school logo or any form of school branding – this was also to reduce cost. Traditionally, the start of the summer term used to mark a change in school uniform and allow pupils to wear a blue polo shirt rather than a white shirt, tie, and school jumper. As pupils already wear a blue polo shirt there is no change to the school uniform for next term.

School uniform

Navy polo shirt with school badge

Navy sweatshirt with school badge

Plain black tailored trousers Unacceptable styles although not limited to:

Super skinny, hipster, riveted denim, canvas, jeans-style, cropped, ankle grazers, leggings, jeggings, treggings or/ plain black skirt (non lycra or other stretchy fabric) worn with black opaque tights. The skirt should be no more than 7.5cm (3") above the knee

Plain dark socks that cover the ankle

Plain black shoes with black soles

Suitable winter outdoor coat

Black hijab with year group colour trim (worn for religious reasons)

PE Kit / Uniform

White polo shirt

Sky/navy shorts and/or TSS black sport leggings or TSS tracksuit bottoms

Navy 1/4 zip training top with school badge.

Navy football socks and white sports socks

Trainers (no fashion/canvas pumps or 'Converse' styles)

Football boots (Recommended for football and rugby)

Optional: Base layers (navy or black) for wearing UNDER PE kit during the winter months

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Education

SMSC

I am aware that Mr Field, Assistant Headteacher and Ms Moon, Strategic Leader Personal Development have previously sent out a notification on the success of our school community being awarded the highest level of gold for SMSC, but I have included the report in full as a record and celebration of the work of Ms Moon and Mr Field as well as the significant contribution everyone makes to Titus Salt School being the success it is:

Dear Mr Morrel,

We are delighted to inform you that as a result of the recent verification visit, Titus Salt School has been awarded the gold level of the National SMSC Quality Mark, and this has been confirmed by the Quality Assurance Panel.

In March 2022 OFSTED reported concerns about the then 'Lifetracks' (PSHE) lessons, and it is much to your credit that the school has done so much work to redress this, and promote SMSC and Personal Development within, and throughout, the curriculum.

Inevitably, some aspects of provision have been affected by the pandemic, but it is testimony to the strong sense of moral purpose that is shared throughout the school, and the expectations and aspirations that you have for pupils and staff, that any previous disruption, such as restrictions to extracurricular activities, trips and visits are already being proactively addressed.

It is clear from the excellent displays throughout the school that you have invested heavily in creating a warm and supportive learning environment, which the pupils value and respect. This is also represented in the calm, but constructive, working ethos that is prevalent throughout the school.

The pupils to whom I spoke were thoughtful and articulate in their responses and they describe the school and recent improvements with enthusiasm and pride. They clearly value and appreciate the opportunities that the curriculum and extra-curricular activities provide. They also value the support given to them by all members of (teaching and non-teaching) staff, which is a hallmark of staff/student relationships. They were a credit to themselves, their families, and the school.

We would also like to congratulate Ms Moon, who has been leading on the development of SMSC with an inclusive 'can-do' vision, commitment, and professionalism. The fact that Ms Moon now has parity with other faculty leaders, also demonstrates the significant investment you are making into SMSC and the personal development of pupils. This is further supported by an increasingly sound programme of 'Personal Development' which incorporates the statutory expectations around sex and relationships and health education (RSHE) but has clearly been adapted to meet local need. This is recognised and appreciated by parents and carers, who were thoughtful but unstinting in their praise for the school. They were particularly conscious of the support given to all pupils, especially those with SEND, and they were justifiably proud of the achievements of their children, not just in terms of academic attainment but also their social and emotional skills development.

Please also pass on my thanks to your chair of governors, Shirley Craven and Lorraine Lucas. They both clearly have an excellent understanding of the culture, ethos and expectations of the school, the significant contributions that this makes to SMSC development and encourage all members of the school community to become lifelong learners.

Together, you have enabled staff to develop such a positive ethos for learning, which enables pupils to flourish in every aspect of their lives. It also supports staff wellbeing, without which, it is all but impossible to achieve such outcomes.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

Having initially submitted your self-review, we appreciate that even over the recent months, the significant investment that you've made in terms of SMSC development should be recognised. Through your self-evaluation and our discussions, it is evident that there are numerous SMSC related strengths throughout the school, which are closely interwoven in everything that you do.

The following are a few key examples:

- Significant investment in the role of a Personal Development lead has given PD parity of esteem with other curriculum leaders. Ms Moon has already made some significant improvements in provision which will be of benefit to staff and students. She is clearly enjoying the role and will, no doubt, continue to make an increasingly strong contribution to the curriculum and opportunities for pupils.
- Updating the RSHE curriculum to ensure compliance with the statutory expectations, but also locating this within a wider programme of 'Personal Development' (PSHE) has been recognised and appreciated by pupils and parents alike. Adaptations to the curriculum are supported by close working relationships with the pastoral teams, and linking this to assemblies and a thoughtful, and developing programme of external visitors is already paying dividends. The newly instigated 'PD Newsletters' are a real strength.
- The recent and planned staff development sessions around neurodiversity, challenging discriminatory language with kindness and empathy, diversity role models, especially around the needs of LGBTQ+ people and mental health are to be applauded. This will, no doubt, support all members of the school community.
- You are also actively seeking leadership responsibility opportunities for pupils which is to be highly commended. The Diversity Council is already a real strength and plans to make this increasingly student lead sounds really exciting.
- There are also some small but significant refinements, such as ensuring that pupils' preferred pronouns are recorded on the school's information management system, are also indicative of your commitment to inclusion, diversity and SMSC development more widely.

Areas for development:

As we discussed, the school remains ambitious to improve provision still further, based on the values which influence and pervade the curriculum and ethos. This includes, but are not restricted to:

- Development of even greater opportunities for leadership responsibility for pupils throughout the school, including a team who will mediate disputes will continue to enhance an already delightful whole-school ethos.
- Although the school makes efforts to engage with the local community, the plans you have for enhancing this still further, and 'taking the school to the local community' will continue to enhance the reputation of the school, but also pupils' learning and SMSC development.
- Pupil voice is already strong in the school, but this will continue to improve still further with the plans that you have for using this to inform PSHE/PD still further.

We congratulate Titus Salt School on achieving the gold standard of SMSC development, and on the exemplary curriculum and relationships that are the hallmark of this excellent school

Verifier: John Rees

SMSC Quality Mark Manager: Victoria Quijada



News and Events – December 2022 to February 2023

Produmax Visit

Year 10 engineering pupils had the opportunity to visit local firm Produmax, this month with a tour of their facilities. Produmax, engages young people and gives them a clear insight into the world of engineering and continues to build and support valuable links with our school. Produmax specialises in high value and critical components within the aerospace sector of engineering. Pupils benefit from these visits massively as it provides the links between theory learnt in the classroom and seeing it applied in the real world. The visits also get pupils considering their potential career paths as they can see beyond GCSE and A Level, and it can inspire them to work harder towards their final grades.

Year 11 Exam Support and Information evening

School held an evening for Year 11 pupils and parents to provide them with information and support for the upcoming exam season. The evening was very well attended, and feedback has been very positive.

Imperial War Museum

In January, forty-four, Year 9 pupils visited the Imperial War Museum (IWM) North in Manchester. The visit helped pupils embed knowledge of topics they have studied in their history lessons, including World War One, World War Two and the Cold War. Pupils were able to view source material from these significant 20th century global events and link these events through the concepts of Power and International Relations. Mr Sanderson, Leader of History, commented "Pupils' love of History was clear to see, it was fantastic to see them so engaged with the museum exhibits. They were a credit to the school."

Diversity Council visits iconic Fashion House

The TSS Diversity Council were fortunate enough to be invited to the Burberry Offices in Leeds to meet with their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion representatives. The Diversity Council met in the boardroom where they discussed what Diversity, Equity and Inclusion means and why it is so important in schools and businesses. The Burberry DE&I representatives shared some of their initiatives and were also interested to hear about the work the Diversity Council have been doing in school. Pupils came away with lots of ideas for how we can continue our work as a school to celebrate diversity.

Movie Night

In recognition of a clean behaviour log the Year 9 Team invited pupils to join them in the Main School Hall for a Movie Night! Doors opened from 4.45pm for a 5pm start. Pupils brought blankets, pillows, or a cushion to sit on for comfort and there was a small tuck shop selling drinks and sweets.

Produmax Engineering Competition

Year 9 pupils impressed the judges at the final of the Produmax Engineering Competition. The three judges were left speechless after the four teams delivered their final presentations. The aim of the project was to solve a current problem based on the 17 UN Sustainability Goals. Pupils researched the problem, designed solutions, made models which were both physical and computer generated. The winning team designed a solar powered lamp which could be used by refugees. It was safe to say the judges were extremely impressed. Well done to all involved!

PE Enhancement Days

The PE enhancement days have been a huge success. Pupils in Years 7-10 had an amazing time and explored a range of new skills. They spent 2 hours bouldering, rope climbing and challenging themselves on the wall limbo and slackline and 2 hours in the trampoline park completing ninja warrior challenges, trying to beat the reaction wall, and perfecting their gymnastics skills. It was great to see the smiles and laughter and watch their confidence grow as the day progressed.

Dance Leadership

KS4 Dance pupils delivered a very successful jive/ Rock and Roll Dance workshop to a total of 250 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for over 3 hours. For some of our pupils, leading and teaching dance is something that is usually outside of their comfort zone, but they all did a fantastic job of demonstrating excellent leadership skills and creating a fun and highly engaging atmosphere.

Bouncers

Year 11 to 13 drama students studying the play 'Bouncers' enjoyed an amazing performance of the show this week at The Viaduct Theatre, Halifax. The unique, subterranean theatre was a different viewing experience for the students, and they were fortunate enough to meet the cast after the show for advice and photos.

Once again, I wish to thank our members of staff and our children for their commitment and involvement to engage in activities and experiences beyond the classroom. As we continue to work through these ever-changing times, I wish to end by thanking you for your continued support and to say that I continue to be proud of our children and how they continue to conduct themselves in dealing with the situations and challenges they face.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel

Headteacher