

20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to TFS in September and have been working hard to ensure that your children are returning to a safe and purposeful environment. As we approach the return to school in September, I feel it important to offer some reassurance that TFS will continue to maintain our high standards and the culture of the school.

### **Culture of TFS**

The TFS culture is well-established around the core principles of Teamwork, Fairness and Success. We have routines and “How Tos” for scholars and staff to ensure that we consistently embody the highest of standards, and to ensure that our scholars are able to achieve and aspire to great things. TFS consistently narrates the expectations of these routines. We ask parents to support the school in all matters, in order that we are able to work in partnership to secure an excellent future for your son or daughter. Where any issues or concerns arise, we would ask that you contact us directly to ensure that they are resolved as quickly as possible.

### **RSE**

There is a new RSE curriculum to be delivered following an update from the Department for Education. We have already undertaken a questionnaire to parents regarding the new curriculum. Further details can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/805781/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

### **Safeguarding**

The safety of our scholars over the summer holiday is paramount. Should you have any concerns over a child at our school please email [tfs-dsl@turnerschools.com](mailto:tfs-dsl@turnerschools.com). I, along with my colleagues, have been monitoring this throughout the holiday. The Pastoral Team have also put this information onto their email out-of-office reply.

Furthermore in the event of an emergency there are other agencies who can help such as:

CHILDLINE: <https://www.childline.org.uk/> 0800 1111

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/>

If a child is in imminent danger please call 999 police or 101 to report other concerns.

For mental health concerns [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) offer a range of advice and support.

## Attendance

At TFS we set a target of 97% attendance for all our scholars. We expect all scholars to attend school every day, unless they are too unwell to do so.

Good attendance is proven to be linked to achievement. If a school can **improve** attendance by **1%**, they will see a **5-6%** improvement in **attainment** (Department for Education and Skills). Good attendance also helps scholars with mental health issues, as the routine of school gives focus and purpose. The Pastoral Team have completed training to help support scholars and families with attendance issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to affirm that TFS will not support holidays during term time. In addition, non-urgent medical appointments should be arranged outside of school hours wherever possible. Please be aware that poor attendance can lead to referrals to the School Liaison Officer and the implementation of penalty fines.

The government has confirmed school attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Some scholars may not be able to attend school due to COVID-19, for example they are self isolating, have symptoms or a positive test result. In these circumstances, scholars will not be marked absent and a new category of non-attendance has been created by the government for schools to use. Shielding advice for all adults and scholars paused on the 1st August subject to a continued decline in community transmission of COVID-19. Should there be any increases in cases the government will advise on any changes to local procedures.

## Behaviour

We will continue with our “warm strict” approach. Please be mindful that we are strict, because we care deeply about our scholars and their aspirations. The vast majority of our wonderful scholars did not receive any behaviour points for poor behaviour last year.

A very small minority of scholars did not meet our high expectations and we will continue to support and sanction those scholars, whilst ensuring the majority do not suffer as a consequence. Scholars must be able to learn free from disruption and teachers must be able to teach effectively. This is the only way to support all scholars to aspire to be the best they can be.

Scholars at TFS can trust that the adults in the school are making decisions for their best interests. We care about the welfare of our scholars and will not shirk from difficult conversations with scholars or parents/carers where a scholar’s conduct is unacceptable.

A few key points to remember:

1. Scholars are not allowed to answer a member of staff back.
2. Mobile phones may be brought into school, but must not be used at all during the school day.
3. We have silent corridors.
4. We have clear routines that we narrate and practise to ensure scholars understand.

Whilst we are forced to adapt our practice due to Covid-19, **we will not set detentions for scholars failing to complete homework**. However, we will inform parents/carers about any non-completion and will ask you to support us in ensuring that your son or daughter completes any missing work.

**30 or 60 minute detentions will continue to be set for poor behaviour.** Year 7 will sit detentions on a Tuesday, Year 8 on a Wednesday and Year 9 on a Thursday. Additional Friday Detentions will be set for any scholar who has been in isolation. Parents will be informed of detentions in the usual way via the SIMS app email notification.

I'd like to add that detentions are inconvenient for all involved, the school, scholar and parent. I would encourage you to discuss why good behaviour is important with your child. No detention is set lightly or without clear evidence.

Scholars' indiscretions are recorded as behaviour points. Where scholars accrue too many behaviour points we will endeavour to meet with parents, create behaviour contracts and try to support scholars to improve. TFS offers scholars and their families a range of support mechanisms where behaviour is a concern.

Covid 19 guidelines from the government have created some new issues to consider. Social distancing in school must be adhered to as set out by the government. The safety of our scholars and staff is paramount. Please speak to your child about this. Where we find a wilful neglect of these guidelines TFS will be forced to act to ensure the scholar and their parents/carers are made aware that such behaviour is unacceptable.

### **Uniform**

The Family Handbook outlines uniform requirements. Please send pictures of any items of clothing that you are unsure about before you buy them. Where uniform is an issue, scholars may be placed in isolation until this is resolved. We are aware that at the start of term, there may be some supply issues, therefore we have a period of grace to ensure that no one is unfairly penalised.

Despite the difficult circumstances, I look forward, with your support to another successful year at TFS.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Chapman', written in a cursive style.

Mr Chapman

Vice Principal