



TDMS

Friday 3 September 2021

Welcome back

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well, keeping safe and have had a good summer. This year marks the beginning of a new chapter for the school bringing with it a number of positive changes. It has been a pleasure to meet our new Year 6, 9 and 12 students today. Sadly, my first assembly was a virtual one as we are still restricting large group gatherings to ensure the safety of all. Instead, I have visited the various classrooms and it was lovely to see so many happy faces and to hear the buzz of students filling the school again. It was also pleasing to see students wearing their uniforms with pride, behaving well and enjoying their lessons as well as catching up with friends during social time. As first days go, it has been excellent.

Improving communication

Communication is essential to the success of our school. This year we are focussed on ensuring that our communication is improved at all levels. Not knowing why or what is happening causes anxiety and worry and so it is important that we ensure that everyone involved understands the reasons behind what we are doing. Moving forward you will receive letters on one day of the week, a Wednesday, rather than letters throughout the week making it easier for you to keep track. I will be writing to you weekly to keep you up to date with what is going on. We will also be launching our parent/carers forum where we can meet to discuss any questions and queries you may have as well as enable us to talk through new ideas and possible next steps with you. As a school, we recognise the importance of working together to ensure the wellbeing, safety and success of every one of our students. We are very much looking forward to working with you this year.

New logo

As you will notice from the header of this email, we have a new logo and a new name to mark our new chapter. Moving forward we will be using the name 'TDMS'. This name is very popular with students as they have been using this acronym for a number of years. As we progress through the year we will remove the old logo from the various areas. Uniform next year will be available with the new logo. There is no need to buy new uniform as we will not be changing the uniform until next year. Even then the old logo will still be accepted as long as families need it to be. As a parent of three teenage boys, I am fully aware of the cost of uniform.

Improvements to the school site

Thanks to the Four Stones MAT, we have been able to make a number of improvements to the school. Over the summer, our site and IT team have been working extremely hard to clean up the school and improve the environment so that it is more conducive to learning for our students. All classrooms have been decluttered and painted so that they are clean and fresh. Classrooms now have visualisers in them that enables the teacher to project work onto the board, improving their ability to provide feedback to students on how to improve. Classroom and corridor displays have also been removed and will soon display motivational quotes for the students. The reasons for removing classroom displays is twofold. Firstly, research tells us that we learn what we attend to. We want our students to be able to focus on what matters; the teacher teaching, their partner during partner work or simply their own work during practice time. Secondly, our teachers should be spending the majority of their time on planning, teaching and feedback to students. Time spent on classroom displays has zero impact on students' learning. As a school, we are determined to ensure that every student receives the excellent education they deserve.

We have also fully refurbished the Year 6 and sixth form areas. The Year 6 area has fully refurbished classrooms. There is now a dedicated reading and library corner and intervention space. The sixth form centre now has a new IT suite with computers available for students to work on as well as space for them to plug in their own lap tops. The common room has been completely redone with new furniture and kitchen with tea and coffee facilities, microwave and dishwasher. This area provides students with an area where they can work and socialise with their peers.

Ensuring the safety of all

The health of students, their families and the staff is and always will be paramount. Life may be returning to normal, but the threat of coronavirus (COVID-19) is still there. Good hygiene and ventilation are the two most important measures for ensuring the site remains safe. We will be talking to students regularly to remind them about the importance of good hygiene, in particular hand washing. Students will continue to be asked to sanitise their hands on entry and exit of classrooms. All classrooms have been fully audited to ensure that they are well ventilated. Our all day cleaning continues to ensure that all touch points are regularly cleaned and as mentioned earlier, we are reducing student numbers as often as possible via virtual assemblies, split lunches and different entrance gates. We have reviewed our risk assessment and will continue to do so as we move forwards. Although face coverings will no longer be required, those students and staff who wish to wear one will be accommodated. As currently, we will continue to follow the public health advice and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on our local circumstances.

553 Bus

We were notified this morning that there has been a change in the route and timetable for the 553 bus service for Honeybourne, Breforton & Badsey. Although information was sent out by Worcestershire County Council, some parents may not have received the updated times. The new timetable and route can be found [here](#).

Food

Students are now able to purchase food at break time as well as lunch. If you have a ParentPay account, please remember to top it up ready for next week. You can log on by clicking the following link: <https://www.parentpay.com> . If you are a new parent, ParentPay is quick and simple to set up. On the first day of school, your child will be issued with a paper copy of your ParentPay activation code and guide. Please ask your child for the paper copy. Students can bring in cash next week if there are issues setting up accounts. Please check the ParentPay website for further support and guidance. Any issues please email finance@tdms.worcs.sch.uk .

Keeping you up to date

Did you know we use social media as another way of keeping you up to date with what's going on? We post updates, reminders and regular messages praising and showcasing the work of our students' amazing efforts. Follow us on Twitter: **@TDMS_Evesham**, Facebook: **@TDMS.evesham** and Instagram: **@tdms.evesham**

Thank you again for all of your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on ['parents@tdms.worcs.sch.uk'](mailto:parents@tdms.worcs.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Ruth Allen
Headteacher

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