



# TDMS

Wednesday 3 November

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back!

It has been great to have our students and staff back in after the half term break. I was extremely proud on Monday standing on the front gates, meeting and greeting and watching our students coming into school. Not only do they look smart but they are also considerate of others. I watched a group of our Year 11 students waiting for a friend, politely move out of the way to allow a mum and her two children past on their way to St Richards. It is this sort of behaviour that makes our students stand out from the crowd and makes all our staff proud to say they teach at TDMS. Thank you for your support with ensuring that your child is in full uniform, equipped and ready to learn.

### **Good hygiene**

The health of students, their families and the staff remains paramount. Last term, we already saw a rise in the number of general coughs and colds as well as the ongoing threat of coronavirus (COVID-19). Good hygiene and ventilation are the two most important measures for ensuring the site remains safe and as germ free as possible. We will be reminding students regularly 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 and all classrooms have been fully audited to ensure that they are well ventilated. We have reviewed our risk assessment and will continue to do so as we move forwards and 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. Please remember to continue to test using the Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) on a Sunday and Wednesday and report the result directly to the NHS. Please also see the Winter Resilience letter from Worcestershire County Council.

### **Behaviour**

Following several parental enquiries and requests, we have made some changes to our behaviour systems. As we move into winter and the nights are getting darker, especially as the clocks have now gone back, we have moved our C2 detentions to lunchtimes. This will dramatically reduce the number of students that need to sit detentions after school, meaning unless they have chosen to stay for a club the students will leave school at 3.30pm at the end of the day.

### **What if...?**

It is important that all of our students understand the reasons why we do what we do. To make sure that all students have the information they need to understand our choices and so that they know what to do in certain circumstances, we will be completing a weekly 'what if?' session during tutor lessons. These have been developed as a direct response to comments and questions made by the students. Asking questions is essential for learning and we want to encourage students to ask questions about the work that they are doing to get the help that they need. Therefore, next week we will be looking at 'what if I need help in lessons?' concentrating on when and how to ask questions and what support is available to them both during and after lessons.

### **Character education and extra-curricular**

The first half term of the new academic year at TDMS saw the introduction of the Character Academy. The Character Academy will provide students with opportunities to develop, grow and create memories that last a lifetime. It offers experiences that cultivate a sense of pride and community that stays with them into adulthood, and which excite, engage and enthuse our students, removing barriers to full participation in society.

In the first half term, we offered a diverse extra-curricular programme that students were able to access before, during and after school. Nearly 30 different activities have been offered that includes Ukulele,

Cooking, Chess and Microbits to name but a few. Students in all years have accessed these activities with over 120 students taking part in at least 1 activity. This half term, we will continue to offer a wide range of activities and encourage all students to get involved. On top of our Extra-Curricular programme, we are planning a range of guest speakers to excite and engage with our students, and educational visits to a number of local educational and cultural places. We will also be speaking with our students to see what else they would like to see on offer.

### **Mock examinations**

Mock examinations are a great way for students to prepare for external examinations. They can be a great way for students to focus their minds and have an experience of what sitting a formal examination is like. Mock examinations are also a way to ensure revision is focused and students are planning their time effectively. We know that the most successful students work hard and use retrieval practice revision methods as preparation for their exams. These methods include completing past papers, quizzes, using flash cards and Cornell Notes. There are exam tips and information on our website, we will be teaching students the most effective revision methods in tutor sessions and offering students support on dealing with exam stress. We are very aware that this time can be fraught with anxiety, particularly as our students have not taken exams in this way before. We have put in place a week by week plan to ensure that students are given all the knowledge they need to cope and be successful in these examinations. Advice on exam anxiety can be found here [The De Montfort School \(tdms.worcs.sch.uk\)](http://tdms.worcs.sch.uk)

### **Years 7 and 8 homework after the holidays**

Following feedback from our students and their families, we have made the decision to pause the subject specific homework launch until the spring term. This half term, students will continue to receive homework in Maths (via Hegarty Maths) and English, but will not be set any subject specific homework. We will continue to work with students to ensure they have the skills in place to manage their time before increasing the homework tasks.

### **Influenza (Nasal Flu) Immunisation**

Years 6 to 11 are being offered the Influenza (Nasal Flu) Immunisation in school on 24 November. Students will be bringing the consent forms home this week. Can you please complete the form and either sign to say you consent or to say you do not want your child to have this. Completed forms need to be returned to school, for the attention of Mrs S Hensley, by 12 November as the nurses collect the forms beforehand to check them for any queries. Please see the NHS letters below.

### **Parent/Carer forum**

The next meeting will be on 17 November at 6.30pm. We would like to talk to you about mental health and what we are doing to support our students. We will be joined by Louise Hudson, our Education Mental Health Practitioner, who will be talking to you about her role and the support she will be providing. We will also be sharing information with you about the changes we will be making to the uniform moving forward, in particular the focus on reducing the cost and a possible recycling scheme. Although we will be changing the logo on the uniform, we will not be asking families to buy new until their child has grown out of their current uniform. Please email me at [parents@tdms.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:parents@tdms.worcs.sch.uk) if you would like to attend and let me know what you would like to discuss.

### **Letters**

[Central Data Report Year 11](#)

[Criminology workshop – Year 13](#)

[Four Stones Year 11 Revision - parent advice booklet](#)

[Music Technology Update - for 10B/Mt1](#)

[Next Steps Conference – Year 12](#)

[NHS Additional Information Sheet re Flu Immunisation](#)

[NHS Letter re Flu Immunisation](#)

[Sixth Form Open Evening 2](#)

[Winter Resilience](#)

### **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

### **School calendar for the next two weeks**

Thursday 4 November -	GCSE 8300/2 Maths exam Y11 Parents' Evening (Appointment Only) Y12 Parents' Evening Y13 Parents' Evening
Monday 8 November -	GCSE 8300/3 Maths exam Y11 performance recording day 1
Tuesday 9 November -	Y11 performance recording day 2
Thursday 11 November -	Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 17 November -	GCSE Spanish speaking mock exam Parent/carer forum 6.30pm

*If this email or letters are corrupt or do not view correctly, please see the Letters to Parents page on our website, as your viewing device may not support all formats:*

<https://www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk/index.php?page=letterstoparents>