



# TDMS

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week was a busy week as always and the countdown to Christmas is now fully underway! Last week, a number of the school council students decorated our Christmas tree that was donated by the Evesham Garden Centre.

Year 11 completed their first week of mocks. There were a number of very nervous students at the beginning of the week but by Friday the smiles had returned and they were confident with how the week was going. This week sees the final week of their exams.

Looking ahead to Christmas, on the last day of this term, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, we will be finishing at the slightly earlier time of 2pm. The buses have been rearranged for this time and students in Years 6 and 7 will require a consent slip to leave early. A letter providing more details is attached to this week's update.



Many of you will have read the announcement on Friday about students completing an onsite Covid test before returning to school in January. This will mean a staggered start to the term. We are just finalising the plans for this and will let you know next week what this means for your child.

## Uniform

Uniform seems like a little thing, but it is extremely important. It helps to build unity, a sense of community and helps to create a level playing field between students. Unfortunately, our current uniform is very expensive and this is something we are very keen to rectify. Moving forward we are de-badging a number of the uniform items making it easier for you to buy items at a more competitive price. The following items will continue to have a school badge:

- Blazer;
- Tie; and
- PE top.

All other items will not be badged. We will be changing the uniform to include the new logo and name. We do not expect anyone to buy new uniform until it is necessary to do so. Once the school shop has sold all the current stock, they will begin to stock the new logoed items. We fully expect the transition from old uniform to new to take a number of years as families will be able to continue to hand items down to younger siblings. Our priority is not the change of logo but reducing the cost. I am also pleased to say that our uniforms are also eco-friendly and for the "Back To School" period in September, we prevented 6,665 2 litre sized bottles being put into landfill. There are approximately 18 bottles in a blazer and 5 bottles in a skirt.

## Year 13 mock examinations

As the Year 13 mocks are fast approaching, I would like to let you know what we are doing to support the students in for these important exams. They will soon be receiving revision plans in each subject, these detail which topics they should be revising in the lead up to the mock exams which start on the first week back. Students will be provided with an exam timetable. We will be going over revision in lessons and completing a walking talking mock, this is when a teacher explains exactly how to answer each section of the exam paper. We are also running revision sessions in form time, in which we focus on the most effective revision strategies, these include; quizzing, cornel notes, completing past papers and using flash cards to test yourself. If your child is feeling anxious about these exams they can talk to Mrs Jones, Miss Shepperd or their form tutor.

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

This week we will be looking at concentrating on work in lessons with the question 'What if I talk in lessons?'. We know from research that practice has a significant impact on the progress of students and we all know the saying practice makes perfect. When our students are taking part in practice, we ask them to do it independently, not talking to other students as any distraction has a negative impact on concentration. Recent research has shown that a small amount of noise can have a 5% impact on concentration and progress and that children are the most affected. We will be explaining this to students and sharing the new research on noise.

### **Letters**

[Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day](#)

[Year 6 Central Data Report](#)

[Year 12 Work Experience](#)

[Year 12 Next Steps Post 18 Options](#)

[Sixth Form Taster Day](#)

[Working Wednesday](#)

[End of Term Arrangements – Years 6 and 7](#)

[End of Term Arrangements – Years 8-11 and Sixth Form](#)

### **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**

Monday 6 December – TED – school closed

Wednesday 8 December - GCSE Dance Exam (half day)

Thursday 9 December – Year 9 Parents' Evening

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