

**November 2023****Tupton Hall School Term 1 and Term 2 Update**

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the start of term 2, I write with a reflection on the beginning of term 1 and some updates on developments at school.

Thank you for supporting your child in making a purposeful start to the new academic year. When our students get the 'basics' right we know that they will do well in school. The basics are coming to school each day on time, in school uniform with their equipment ready for learning and a positive attitude to try hard. If there are any issues with these expectations please continue to contact school staff and we will do all that we can to help, so that these basics are in place.

I am pleased to report that in term 1, 96% of all staff reports of student conduct have been positive and worthy of recognition and reward. This demonstrates very clearly that the vast majority of students are behaving well and committing to their learning. It is important that this is maintained into term 2. Your help with this is always greatly appreciated by encouraging your child to work hard and behave respectfully in school.

To help us to continue to communicate well, I am sharing with you a new 'Parent Communication Policy' <https://tinyurl.com/bddxn98v> and at the end of the letter there is an infographic as a quick guide. Please consider the guidance in the policy to help with effective communication between home and school and vice versa.

Attendance

Attendance levels at school have improved this year in comparison to this point last academic year, however they remain a high priority for improvement. Students that have at least good attendance at Tupton Hall School achieve far more academically than those that do not attend regularly. This is clearly evidenced in the 2023 GCSE and A level results. Every student has an attendance target of **98%** this academic year.

See table below showing the effect of absence on your child's attendance rate.

ATTENDANCE CATEGORY	NO. OF DAYS POSSIBLE TERM 1&2	NO. OF DAYS ABSENT	% PRESENT
EXCELLENT	74	2	97%
GOOD	74	4	95%
CONCERNING	74	8	89%
POOR	74	15	80%

We understand that medical conditions and appointments will affect your child's attendance. School will understand, and support students and parents in these circumstances. However, please check your child's attendance rate this term and work with school to ensure that your child achieves excellent or good attendance through term 2.

It has been a real pleasure seeing students taking part in the full range of curriculum plus activities this term. By the end of term 75% of students had attended at least one club, activity or event outside of timetabled lessons. Please encourage your child to take part and get involved in activities outside of the school day as these enrich their lives and provide the chance for new talents to be nurtured.

Uniform

The new free school jumper seems to have been very well received by students. If you have requested one and are yet to receive it please ask your child to raise this with his/her form tutor. As the colder weather approaches students may wish to wear this jumper under their blazer whilst in school. No other jumpers, sweatshirts or hoodies will be acceptable school dress. School is continuing to work hard to source the best quality uniform at the lowest prices.

Transport

We will shortly be undertaking a whole school survey in order to gather the views of our families with regard to travel to and from school for our students. Following feedback from the survey we plan to make changes in order to improve transport arrangements and further safeguard our students. Whilst we are undertaking this work please continue to park sensitively around the school site and on local roads.

Armistice / Remembrance Day

School will mark Remembrance Day on Friday 10 November 2023. We would like all of our students who are part of uniformed service groups such as Army, RAF, Police, St John's Ambulance Cadets etc. to be part of our parade and participate in the laying of crosses and wreaths at the Tupton Hall Tree of Life on the school courtyard. Students can wear their uniforms in school throughout the day.

Careers Fair

All students and families are invited to attend our annual Careers Fair on Wednesday 8 November 5.30pm. – 8.00pm. We have a range of local employers, apprenticeship experts, Higher Education organisations and many more providers keen to speak with you about the world of work and future opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming our wonderful students back to school on Monday 6 November 2023.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Knowles', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher



OUR COMMUNICATION POLICY

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THESE 5 STEPS BEFORE CONTACTING SCHOOL

1

Consider which communication method is best for the situation.

Some conversations are best face to face, whilst others, given their nature, may be quickly resolved over the phone or via the 'Contact Us' form/email.



Our office hours are 08.00-16.30.

Staff are not expected to be available in the evenings or at weekends.

2

3

We will respond within 2 working days.

We want our communication to be timely as this is in the best interest of our students and we will endeavour to respond to all appropriate communications. The greatest challenge we face is the high volume of communications.

We will prioritise communications based on need but must stress that we cannot operate as an emergency service. There may be times that we are able to respond sooner than this; however, there may also be times when school is exceptionally busy, when this timescale is not achievable.



Appointments with staff must be booked in advance.

This is to avoid disappointment. Many of our staff will be teaching or in meetings during the course of a school day. Anyone arriving to reception unannounced will be advised to request a meeting, unless the matter is deemed an emergency.

4

5

All communication should be respectful

