



25 October 2019

## School Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to provide you with updates about how changes at the school are progressing, and to share a booklet with information about school trips that are being planned for this academic year.

### Academy Conversion

On 1 October 2019 we legally converted to become an Academy as part of the Redhill Academy Trust. You will be aware that we have been working with the Trust for the last two years, but behind the scenes the legal transfer has been very complicated leading to a delay in conversion. I am pleased to inform you that this is all now resolved.

### Student dress

We are delighted with how our student and parental body has embraced the school's revised dress code. Students look consistently smart, respectable and are a credit to themselves and the school. I am thankful that parents and carers have been supportive in helping all of our students meet our expectations. The new school ties are vibrant and work well to identify students in the revitalised House system. There has been a number of students that have borrowed school ties this term after forgetting or losing their original tie. Moving forwards, ties that replace lost or long term loaned ties, will be charged to parents by invoice at a cost of £3.50 per tie.

### House system

The House system has been relaunched this term. Students are being rewarded for their efforts both individually and as a House. Top point scorers in all Houses will be awarded certificates, entered into prize draws and be included in reward events. In addition, the winning house will be celebrated at the end of the academic year, with a reward event and presentation of the House trophy. Students are currently being consulted with to help choose the name of the House trophy. The following categories have been identified for students to earn House points;

- Outstanding work in lesson
- Outstanding homework
- Being a positive role model (helpful, thoughtful, kind, supportive)
- Taking part in Extra-Curricular activities
- Out of school achievement
- 100% Attendance (per full week)

Learner Mark Awards will continue to compliment the House points system. These will be awarded at data point assessments where a students' attitude to learning in lessons meets the required threshold for celebration and reward.

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## **House Responsibilities**

The following positions of student leadership roles have been launched this term, with students being able to apply for positions until 8 November 2019.

- Head Boy and Head Girl (Y11) of each House
- Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl (Y8-11) of each House
- 2 House Events Captains (Boy and Girl from Y7-9 and Y10&11)
- Charity Fundraising Committee (4 students per House any years)
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We hope that these opportunities will capture the imagination and ambition of our students and inspire them to lead others and contribute further to school and community life.

## **Vertical Tutoring**

Although very early in the academic year, I would like to share with you very positive feedback from parents about the vertical tutoring arrangements following the 'meet the tutor' afternoon held at school on 9 October 2019. The survey feedback will appear on the school website shortly. Immediately after the half term break all Y7-11 students will be surveyed to gather their views on the vertical tutoring and House system. This feedback will also be shared with parents and governors.

## **Communication**

With the ongoing use in school of telephone, email, text, mobile apps, social media, online payment systems etc. we recognise that it would be sensible to review how efficient and effective these methods are in communicating between school and home and vice versa. In term 2 we will be working towards publishing a communications policy with parents. With this in mind, if you would like to contribute to shaping this policy and could attend a meeting to be held on Monday 18 November 6.00 p.m. please email [headteacher@tuptonhall.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@tuptonhall.derbyshire.sch.uk) stating that you wish to be involved.

## **Parent / carer pick up and parking – help required**

We continue to receive a number of complaints from local residents and the Parish Council about the parking of vehicles on the streets surrounding the school at the end of the school day. Parked cars are also creating difficulties for passing buses on New Station Road which in turn creates congestion and hazards for passing traffic and our children. The owner of the Tupton Tap public house has also complained that his car park is full of parents picking up students at the end of the school day which limits parking for his customers. It would be most helpful if you could avoid parking near the school on New Station Road or in the Tupton Tap car park, and arrange to meet your child at an alternative pick up point a short walk from the school. Thank you for your understanding and help.

## **Key diary dates for term 2**

Thursday 7 November Post 16 Tupton Hall Sixth Form Open Evening  
Monday 18 November Year 11 Mock examinations begin  
Friday 29 & Monday 2 December School Inset days – school closed to students  
Friday 20 December End of Term

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Tupton Hall School

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Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the school,

Andrew J Knowles  
Headteacher