



2nd April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the Spring term, I am writing to thank you for your continued support.

This term, we have seen Tottington High School operating as a remote school platform with the continuation of online learning which, I have to say, has had benefits. Having navigated online learning for approximately twelve months now, students and staff have learnt so many new 'tricks' along the way. Certainly, we will continue to use and exploit online learning to supplement our offer wherever possible. We have become used to doing parent meetings via Teams; parents' evenings via a remote platform; offering remote learning to students who are shielding or self isolating... it really has been a revelation!

From 8th March, we have then reverted to being a relatively normal school environment! It has been a delight to have students back with us and, for the most part, they have responded well and are glad to be back. We have had many, many comments from students saying that they really do appreciate the chance to be back on site learning with their peers. Nonetheless, it is clear that everyone is ready for a break.

Community engagement and safety

Over the past term, we have been focusing on widening our footfall within the community. Hopefully, you will have noticed that our positive social media presence is more prevalent. We are also engaging with our local Primary schools and becoming involved with neighbourhood community groups. It is a pleasure to be able to do all of these things. I would ask that all students are sensible over the Easter break within our community, please. Local litterpicking groups and community safety groups do a fantastic job in the village and on 'the lines' but, sometimes, they have to clear up after young people who have been leaving litter, building fires and engaging in antisocial behaviour. I am sure that not all of these situations involve Tottington High youngsters but, please, let's do our bit to keep this village clean and safe.

In that regard, you will be aware that there was a serious fire in our neighbourhood last week. I have to extend my thanks to ALL students for their exemplary behaviour. It is always difficult to know how students will respond when there is something 'real' happening but they were all a credit to the school. In addition, it is important that I record our thanks to the Fire service for their incredible bravery and hard work. The fire has clearly significantly affected some of our neighbours and we intend to do a non uniform day early next term in order that we can support our neighbours and the Fire service. Thankfully, no one was seriously hurt.

Year 11 assessment and teacher assessed grades

In terms of assessment, Year 11 students and parents will be aware that, this year, the assessment processes are very different. It is imperative that students produce as many pieces of work as possible at the level of which they are capable. Assessment will be by teacher assessment but there will be stringent in school and external moderation processes and we will only be able to award grades based on a vast portfolio of evidence. Students know what they need to do and staff are guiding them appropriately. To this end, we will be doing a Year 11 information evening for all Year 11 parents via Teams - more information will be sent in due course. It is essential that all parents are represented at this meeting because we need to ensure that parents are clear.

Current uniform

The usual reminders apply, please, regarding uniform. Please, ensure that your child returns to school in appropriate uniform, with a particular emphasis on footwear; jewellery; nails; hair. We have been appreciative of the fact that the very vast majority of students are now very clear about our standard and they are meeting it on a daily basis. We do not want to be dealing with uniform issues next term as it takes up valuable time. Thank you for your support in this regard.



Ella Brett **Headteacher**

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New uniform from September 2021

In terms of uniform, I am now in a position to announce that, from September 2021, Tottington High will have a new uniform. A photograph is attached for your information. We are really delighted to be able to introduce a new branding for our school and our students. To get to this point, students were consulted over the uniform changes and the colour. From Easter, the uniform shops will no longer sell the current uniform items in preparation for the new academic year.



In all honesty, we would absolutely prefer that everyone is in the new uniform from September 2021 because it would be much better to have a consistent approach. However, given the year we have experienced, I have made the decision that the Year 11 in September 2021 may, if parents wish, continue to wear the existing uniform.

This is in recognition of the fact that many families have had a pressured year financially. I know, already, that many of our current Year 10 students have said that they wish to be in the new uniform for their final year next year and that is fantastic. Rest assured, prices are comparable to the current uniform and, certainly, very good value compared to other schools. More information will be shared after Easter regarding next steps with our new uniform and I would, again, like to thank the students for consulting with us and suggesting their preferred colour and style. It looks really smart and professional and they have chosen really well!

Parent forum

The parent forum has been running for over a term. To begin with, it was well attended and it was a pleasure to be able to meet with a range of parents/carers to discuss our school and outline the work we are doing. More recently, now that students are back on site, the attendance at parent forum has dropped off a little. We will keep offering them, so please do ask for an invitation if you would like to meet with senior leaders to discuss any aspect of school life.

Thank you

At the end of this term, we say farewell to Mr Rushworth, Music, and to Miss Lennon, Science. We wish them all the very best for the future and we thank them for their contribution and hard work. After Easter, we welcome Miss Williams as a teacher of Music. We are delighted to have her on our team.



Mrs Hare, as the name suggests, has been moonlighting as the Easter Bunny for the last 7 years, facilitating trips to the Royal Bolton Hospital Children's Ward and also the Royal Blackburn Hospital Children's Ward to deliver eggs to paediatric inpatients over the Easter period. These children can't be home for the Easter Bunny, so the Bunny will go to them to bring a much needed smile.

The response to Mrs Hare's appeal has been phenomenal and pupils and staff have donated an exceptional 202 eggs!

Direct from The Royal Bolton Hospital our very own Easter Bunny (or should that be Easter Hare) said:

"Just to give you an idea... The Royal Bolton can cater for around 80 children at any one time across paediatric wards including children's A&E. It's things like this that make me proud to be part of Team Tottington! These little treats will make such a difference for these children, which is the main reason I was determined to make it happen and I can't thank you all enough!"

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter and here's hoping for some lovely, warm weather!

With very best wishes,

Ella Brett
Headteacher



Inset days

Monday 19th April

Friday 30th April