

# Theale Green School



## Theale Green School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Welcome Back:**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the new academic year. I hope that you and your children have all had the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate and to enjoy an unusually warm summer. All staff at Theale Green School are full of enthusiasm for the year ahead following a year of significant success including our recent Ofsted visit, outstanding A Level and GCSE results as well as our visit in July from Nadhim Zahawi, then Secretary of State for Education!

On Monday we welcomed over 160 year 7 students to Theale Green School. We are also delighted to welcome our new year 12 cohort; they join us having achieved GCSE results which places our school in the top 20% of results in the country. This demonstrates our pupil numbers have grown by 50% since Theale Green School joined Activate Learning Education Trust. All of these key measures are testament to the significant improvements that have taken place within our school, with the support of the whole community.

### **Staffing:**

Looking to the year ahead, all of our staff have been busy during our two teacher training days this week preparing for their arrival of our students; working to further develop our curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning to ensure that all of our students have the best opportunity to succeed.

As part of the growth of the school we are delighted to welcome

- Ms Crowley Head of Years 7 & 8
- Mr O'Sullivan Head of Years 9 & 10
- Mr Neill moves to Head of Year 11

You will receive a further welcome letter from your child's Head of Year in the next few days. This will include important information regarding the year ahead for your child's year group.

In addition, and also to reflect the growth of the school, we are delighted to welcome

- Mr Nailor - Head of Maths,
- Mrs Cervera- Head of MFL,
- Ms Loxton – Teacher of History,
- Ms Mahere - Teacher of English,
- Mr Achong - Teacher of Science.
- Ms Vallaro, Ms Lagden and Mr Richard as Learning Mentors.



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#### Schools

- The Bicester School
  - Theale Green School
  - UTC Heathrow
  - UTC Oxfordshire
  - UTC Reading
  - UTC Swindon
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As explained in our communication on July 21<sup>st</sup> (“**Important Communication – Information for September**”), Mrs Halliday will be spending some of her time working more broadly across the Trust, particularly focusing on culture in schools and retention of staff, to ensure that we can attract and retain the very best teaching and support staff to work with our students in our school and our Trust. Mrs Badarello will be taking on the role of Head of School to ensure that the Leadership of the school remains as robust and strong as it has been over the last few years. The students will of course continue to see both Mrs Halliday and Mrs Badarello around the school on a daily basis.

#### **Uniform:**

We are particularly conscious of the impact of uniform on family budgets, and the move to our new supplier this year was well timed in reducing the costs for this autumn. They have worked diligently to process all orders, and have responded quickly and in some cases, over and above, to ensure hurdles have been removed. We are aware that all uniform suppliers are still have problems with delivery timelines and supply, and overall we are pleased with how they have been managed. We are aware of a very small number of outstanding delays to deliveries of particular items from our uniform supplier. If this has affected you, please let your child’s form tutor know so we can make allowances for this. Additionally, we are working hard to promote our second hand uniform shop, can provide some support to families of children in receipt of Free School Meals, and can always recommend how to keep costs of items such as shirts, shies and trainers down to a minimum. We continue to talk to the supplier about how to further reduce costs, and they have made some very helpful suggestions as well. The finance team are a source of good advice on all aspects of uniform purchase and can be contacted on: [ncowen@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:ncowen@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk)

Details of our uniform expectations can be found here: [UNIFORM LINK](#)

We are proud of Theale Green School, and our uniform, and we do expect all parents to fully support our uniform policy. Disagreement over basic expectations such as uniform or detentions creates uncertainty for young people as the debate plays out. We will always be considerate of particular needs or problems with uniform that cannot be avoided, and will always have clean uniform to lend to students if needed. If there is an issue with your child’s uniform, please contact their form tutor in the first instance who will consult with the Head of Year if necessary. Finally, if you have any spare uniform still in good condition, please do let Nicki Cowen know and she will gratefully accept it for our second-hand uniform shop.

#### **Canteen:**

We were disappointed with the service offered to our students on their return on Tuesday. We have met with the Catering Company (Aspens), and simply, they got it wrong. They have agreed that the standards that we expect for our students were not met, and they have made significant changes this week to improve the situation. We have talked openly with students about our disappointment with Aspens, and students have been very clear that they have now seen a very notable improvement, which we will monitor closely on a daily basis moving forward.

#### **The Year Ahead:**

And finally there are many positives that give us genuine optimism as we look forward to the year ahead. We have a committed group of teachers, support staff and non-teaching staff who will continue to work tirelessly to provide your children with the best opportunities. Supported by you, we have every reason to believe that this year will be another successful year, not just students achieving excellent examination results and destinations, but in so many ways too; from sport to extra-curricular clubs, performances and their own personal development, your children have so many opportunities to succeed and grow. Whilst we aim to be the very best we can be for your children, we will not always get everything right along the way, and without doubt the greatest impact on a child is when a parent can work positively with the school to help and guide us to do the best job for their child. We have new staff and early careers teachers joining us on our ongoing journey, and whilst we continue to develop as a team of dedicated staff, your support in allowing us to have road bumps along the way as we also learn and grow, will be much appreciated by us all. We value direct feedback and honest conversation so please always talk to us directly. We very much look forward to working with you over the year ahead.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jo Halliday  
Executive Principal

Mrs Charlotte Badarello  
Head of School