

18th July 2023

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Dear Parent/Carers

It is almost unbelievable that we have reached the end of the academic year already. Over the course of this year, we have had a change of prime minister and a king for the first time in our lifetimes. This year at Theale Green School (TGS) has had a multitude of highlights - too many to include in this letter! - so I thought a snapshot of some events held in the last month would help give a flavour.

- Year 11 held a very successful prom, described by a member of the venue staff as being the best prom event they had held. A TGS parent wrote to thank us for the high staff turnout at prom despite the appalling weather with localised flooding. Staff and students had a really good time.
- TGS hosted a very successful Year 5 evening, welcoming over 300 students and families to a very hot evening where they experienced a variety of curriculum areas including welcome iced smoothies.
- In the last fortnight we have hosted both our Year 6 Transition Day and the parents' evening. These events saw our rising year 7 students meet their form tutors and experience life at TGS. Current TGS students helped guide year 6 from A to B and talked very proudly of their enjoyment of life at TGS. There were lots of very happy faces at the end of the day.
- Sports Day saw Benyon win yet again – huge congratulations to everyone who took part. Students broke seven TGS records (!) with anticipation for some races having grown over the weeks leading up to the event. The support and camaraderie shown by spectators and participants to all involved truly reflected the powerful community that we know are.
- Finally, last week's summer production of "Kill the Messenger" at Bradfield College was outstanding. The cast was diverse, with both older and younger students in leading roles. The cast held a matinee on the second day with Theale Primary, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Students and staff had to adapt to the last-minute extreme weather and change to an indoor venue and still delivered a faultless performance – well done to everyone involved, you truly reflected our Attribute of being resilient. I felt my heart bursting with pride at the fantastic performance they delivered.

As a school we are really looking forward to September when we welcome an additional 100 students to TGS, officially making our school a medium-sized secondary school. This week we celebrated five years of being part of ALET; in 2018 there were just 500 students on roll, with the outgoing year 11 group representing the largest year group in the school. We have achieved this growth thanks to the continued support of the local community alongside a lot of hard work and relentless focus on doing the best job possible for our school and students.

For September, we will have almost 20 additional staff in place to match this increase in growth. We recently held our staff induction day, and this group of staff are dynamic, talented individuals who are driven by their desire to transform students' lives. Despite the highly publicized national challenge regarding teacher recruitment, we are fully staffed thanks to the welcome and sense of powerful community that exudes through our school. Thank you to all of our students who so enthusiastically helped us in the recruitment process.

Schools

- The Bicester School
- Theale Green School
- UTC Heathrow
- UTC Oxfordshire
- UTC Reading
- UTC Swindon

There are several exciting changes for September, and there are a series of links to explain these to you. We have received external funding to create the new Fitness Zone including a class set of rowing machines that students will be able to enjoy the use of. You may have seen the recent social media post about our new breakfast service, including free porridge available for all students [link here](#). As a school we continue to place physical and mental well-being at the heart of all that we do as we continue to strengthen our work on being a Well School.

In the first week of the new term, we will be sharing with you an in depth ‘Who to Contact’ guide that I would recommend keeping to hand, this guidance will help ensure that you are able to contact the person who is best placed to help with your question or concern. We know this extra clarity will help families; to help ensure that your message is dealt with in a timely response, please avoid copying in lots of staff as this can create confusion and we would ask you to ensure that you have just one person included in the **To** part of your message. When more than one person is emailed, often staff will assume that someone else in the email is going to deal with the issue and because we are all geographically spread across the school and on different timetables, communication can therefore be missed. The ‘Who to Contact’ guide will help you to direct your communications to the right individual person.

Due to the nature of our business, we are conscious that a great deal of communication is shared. Moving forward, we will try to streamline communications wherever possible and will send general information through ClassCharts e.g. parent bulletins and will send individual communications i.e. regarding your own child via email from our school system or staff.

In September, we will be sharing details on updates to our behaviour processes. Our priority as a school is in preparing students through delivering an appropriate curriculum, which will lead to the best destinations. High quality teaching & learning can only take place provided staff are able to teach in an environment that is conducive to learning, so it is right that we are able to support both staff and students in achieving this.

When we updated you on toilets, we explained that there would be some fund-raising around ‘Toilet Twinning’ and we are delighted that our Head Team are leading on this in September, look out for updates at the start of the academic year. The Student Council have also worked collaboratively with the Leadership Team to produce a video and other resources to raise awareness of appropriate behaviours that make everyone feel safe and comfortable. We received 132 responses from parents and 115 responses from students around our detailed proposal for CCTV in communal spaces of the toilets. The response was overwhelmingly strong in favour of the proposal and Mrs Halliday will write to you separately in regards to this matter.

I am pleased to confirm that for the new academic year, parents’ evenings will return to being in person to ensure these important conversations are effective. Heads of Year will be writing to their year groups in September to share key dates for the year ahead. Finally, full details on the summer uniform, including the option of black tailored shorts between Easter & October half term can be found on our website, just follow the link below.

Changes to staff including the Leadership Team for 2023-24	https://sway.office.com/0G3LlwcR9iUjOy0R?ref=Link
Uniform	https://www.thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk/parents/uniform/
Tutor groups	https://www.thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Tutor-Structure-for-2023.pdf

Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Halliday at the end of this week. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all that she has done to improve the lives of staff and students at TGS. Thank you to students and parents who contributed their messages of thanks to Mrs Halliday, she has been really touched by the support she has received in her time at TGS. Over the course of her five years at TGS, Mrs Halliday has been relentless in her pursuit of high standards and has left the school in a strong position as we look forward to the next academic year and beyond.

I look forward to writing to you in September and meeting you at one of the parent forums or parent's evenings that will take place over the academic year. On behalf of our staff, thank you for your ongoing support, we know having this and working together results in the best outcomes for our students.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Badarello
Head of School