



THE TCS Tribune

SEPT 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Valued Members of the Community,

As we embark on a new academic year, I welcome you special edition of the 'TCS Tribune.' This is our termly newsletter dedicated to sharing the activities of our incredible school with our wider community so please look out for our issues in December, March / April and July, as well as our presence in the local media.

The summer is always a time of anxiety for the many students awaiting results and the staff who have worked so hard to help them to succeed.



We are highly invested in the success of our students and there is nothing we like more than seeing them achieve the results they so richly deserve. When students achieve their best, they are able to access the next phase of their education, training or employment without hindrance.

TCS has taken some very important steps along the road of its development. My longer-term aim is to create a consistently high performing institute of learning that can rival private schools for achievement. I wanted to share the success of our 2018 cohort and to inform our stakeholders about the future I have planned for TCS.

In an extremely challenging climate, where almost all qualifications have become more demanding and have changed their grading system, our students have performed exceptionally well. Results were well above National averages and students' overall attainment has improved by an average of 0.5 of a grade compared to last year across all students and subjects. Of particular note was the huge increase in students gaining the top grades: 7, 8 and 9. These are equivalent to grade A, A* and beyond

A* – the very highest grade possible. 20% of our students gained these top grades in English AND Maths – a phenomenal achievement. 60% achieved grade 5 or higher and 78% grade 4 or higher in both English and Maths.

There were improvements and extraordinary achievements in many subjects. For example, in Dance, Health and Social Care, Science, Computer Science, English, Geography, History, Maths, Spanish, Drama, Music and RE, between 25% and 41% of students gained top grades. Students were also extremely successful in Triple Science with three quarters of the cohort gaining top grades in Chemistry and Physics and over half achieving the same benchmark in Biology.

In addition to the general cohort successes, we should take the time to celebrate some incredible individual achievements. Gemma Bailey achieved 9 grade 9 and 1 grade 8. Laura Leigh, Nat Hawrylak and Rosie Holmes also achieved exceptionally high grades. In addition to the highest grades in the school, it is important to recognise those who made the most progress from their



starting points five years ago. Alice Griggs and Lydia Coleman; both made superb progress.

The new school year is already proving to be tremendously exciting. Students have returned in excellent uniform and have been incredibly mature and polite. Our Year 11 students seem to have come ready for the long journey ahead and we were fortunate to have an ex-student, Saskia Monaghan, now in her second year at Cardiff University, come to speak to the students about the realities of Year 11 study and success. As she rightly said, it comes down to simply trying to do your best whilst balancing some time to pursue interests. She had lots of excellent advice for our students and provided some brilliant reassurance and a good reality check.

Year 7 have started as we would hope. Keen to learn and benefiting from the transition training we did with our own staff and the liaison work we did with the primary schools. Our aim is to ensure we have a swift start to progress from the beginning of term so they can get on with challenging learning and continue to use the excellent learning habits they developed throughout Primary school.

Going forwards, we have some exciting changes to implement. We are reviewing and changing our rewards system. We wish to promote our school values of Respect; Acting with Integrity; Courage in Learning; Ambition; Responsibility and Diligence. Schools cannot provide a material reward that students really value today so we want to move to a system of recognition. Students need to be recognised for excellence in the aforementioned areas, as well as in their achievements. We are framing this around the idea of intrinsic motivation and reward: doing something because it is the right thing to do or because it feels good to do well.

We are hoping this will build momentum over time – we want our students to be proactive, inquisitive, independent and resilient learners who are self-motivated as we know these qualities will stand them in good stead in the future.



Additionally we are looking at how we support students with SEND, how we support students through inclusion, how we assess and report on work and other areas that will improve the experiences of students at TCS.

Parents and carers will also be aware that we have restructured the pastoral system. This is already having the benefits that we hoped it would.

We have also finalised the names of our four new houses.

We asked students and staff for ideas and our four houses are:

Adams (Red) – named after the famous Whitchurch author Richard Adams was an English novelist and writer of the book *Watership Down*. He studied modern history at university before serving in the British Army during World War II. Afterwards, he completed his studies, and then joined the British Civil Service. In 1974, two years after *Watership Down* was published, Adams became a full-time author

Hawker (Green) – named after the Longparish resident Lanoe Hawker, VC, DSO (30 December 1890 – 23 November 1916) who was a British flying ace of the First World War. Having seven credited victories, he was the third pilot to receive the Victoria Cross, the highest decoration for gallantry awarded to British and Commonwealth servicemen. He was killed in a dogfight with the famous German flying ace Manfred von Richthofen, "The Red Baron."

Portal (Purple) – named after the Portal family from Overton who have a distinguished local history and who were instrumental in delivering the 1948 London Olympics. The family have a long association with industry and employment in Overton and have held prestigious positions within the country, county and the community.

Rostron (Blue) – named after Hampshire resident Sir Arthur Henry Rostron, KBE, RD, RNR (14 May 1869 – 4 November 1940) who was a captain for the Cunard Line. He is best remembered as the captain of the ocean liner RMS *Carpathia*, at the time which rescued hundreds of survivors of the RMS *Titanic* when it sank in 1912. He was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal by the U.S. Congress and, in 1926, he was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

We are looking forward to developing the house culture and the ways in which house points will be used to recognise and celebrate students' success. I can already report the house points for the first week with all year groups are:

Adams	482
Hawker	451
Portal	388
Rostron	416



Our vision for TCS is simple:

“Students act with integrity; achieve excellence together; enjoy and value their education; feel and demonstrate respect for themselves and others and become highly skilled learners prepared for a successful future.”

This along with our strapline: Achievement, Excellent and Integrity, and our school values, encapsulate everything we are about as a school. In order to achieve this, we need to focus on two key areas of development:

1. Continue to develop and improve the quality of teaching.
2. Improve the quality of pastoral support to ensure greater focus on learning and progress.

For a school to be a true institute of learning, everyone, including staff, must be learners. Developing the quality of our teaching and pastoral support is about being reflective and evaluative as an organisation and being true to our vision. This year's successes exist because the students put in the required work – staff supported them but did not do the job for them.

Although this special edition of the TCS Tribune is short, I do hope it gives you an insight into our thinking and the direction we shall be taking as we continue to develop this school to best serve its students and community.

I should like to end by wishing you and your families my best wishes for the coming term.

We look forward to seeing you in the various events throughout the year.

Best Wishes.

Mr J Beck

Mr J Beck, Headteacher



Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

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