

THORPE ST ANDREW SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER



The Academic Year Ahead

As I sit at my desk today at the end of our first week back since the summer break, it is with excitement and great pride that I write this to you. This is my first opportunity to share with you my reflections on our school since my appointment as Acting Principal. It is an honour and a privilege to have been asked to step-in and lead the school at this time and I want to assure you that, although there is change, it is very much 'business as usual' and that I am committed to continuing to provide an outstanding education for the local community. On our first day, as a staff we spent time reflecting on the past year and looking to the future. I feel that it is important to share some of those reflections with you.

Firstly, last year was another successful and record-breaking year and many of our students achieved fantastic results, made significant progress and were able to secure a place in our Sixth Form, other colleges, work or university and make the next steps in life that they dreamed of. They should be proud of themselves as we are proud of them, and I wish them every success in their future. These results and successes reflect the hard work of the students and all the staff over the past year but also mark a step-up in the performance of the school. Well done to our class of 2019.

Looking forward, I have challenged the team at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form to further deliver on our promise of 'Success for All' this year. I have asked each and every member of staff to provide every student with the education we would want for those we love the most. I have encouraged the team to set the bar high for all our students and to hold the highest expectations of the young people in front of them. Our hopes and vision for their great futures should help spur them on.

In my assembly I have also challenged the students to reflect on their past year and the successes they have had and how they could further improve. I have told our students that progressing into a new year group should present them with intellectual challenges and at times it may be difficult. I have reassured them that they need not worry about this as they are supported by a caring and expert staff and also reminded them that this challenge is nothing new; last year they were challenged more than they were before, and coped, and they can do the same this year.

In order to help focus their minds I have given our students three targets, represented as a simple A,B,C:

We believe that all students should Attend, Behave and Care.

Or in more simple turns: every student should turn-up, be nice and work hard.

These are three fundamentals for success, not just at school but in life. I would urge you to share and repeat this message at home as I know these three simple things will make a massive difference to our young people.

It has been a pleasure meeting many new faces over this past week as I have gone around the school. I look forward to meeting many more. Welcome to our new school year and good luck. Remember, turn up, be nice and work hard.

Mr Lambert

6 September 2019

New Colleagues

We welcome a number of new colleagues to our staff team:

Teaching Staff

Miss Waldock	Teacher of English
Mr Mickleburgh	Teacher of Science
Ms Long	Teacher of English
Mr Lennard	Teacher of History
Mr Fairweather	Teacher of Design Technology
Mr Tregear	Teacher of English
Mrs Mahnkopf	Teacher of German
Miss Barnes	Teacher of IT and Computing
Ms Budds	Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs Coleman	Teacher of History

Associate Staff

Miss Applin	Finance Administration
Mrs Douglas	Textiles Technician
Mrs Bowyer-Nash	Art Technician
Mrs Bailey	Examinations and Data
Mrs Broomfield	Examinations and Data



BEST New Structure

North Site

Mrs Warns	BEST - Student Support Manager
Mrs Howes	BEST - Student Case Worker
Ms Larkman	BEST - Support Worker

South Site

Mr Crisp	BEST - Student Support Manager
Miss Bond	BEST - Student Case Worker
Ms Rowe	BEST - Support Worker

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

*Always happy
to receive
book
donations*

Some books in the school library have age restrictions which are based on content, language and difficulty. The books are marked as **Year 8+**, **Year 9+**, **Year 10+** and **Sixth Form**.

If you are happy for your child to read books marked as older than their year group, I need to receive permission from a parent/guardian. This can be emailed to tsalrc@yare-edu.org.uk. Please include your child's name and form and which category you are happy for them to read.

The LRC is always happy to receive donations of books, if you have any which are no longer used, especially popular series which need replacing regularly through wear and tear, so please consider donating them to the school library.

They can be left at the South Site Reception or students can bring them along to the LRC.

Thank you.

Mrs Hamilton
Librarian

Year 7 - Information Evening



You will have received an email regarding an Information Evening being held on Wednesday 18 September 2019. The evening will look at the different aspects that will help Year 7 students to learn and progress through their education. It will also help parents to understand how we work, so effective support can be implemented at home.

Attendance: Norfolk County Council Policy and Letter

The Schools' Attendance Team at Norfolk County Council requires that the letter below be published to all families.

September 2019



Dear Parent/Guardian

Attendance at school and legal intervention

Research commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging affect on their life chances. At Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our students receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

This letter is to remind all parents/carers regarding the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

In the DfE policy document entitled, 'School Attendance: Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities' it states, '*Head teachers should not grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. **The application must be made in advance** and the head teacher must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case which warrant the leave. Where a leave of absence is granted, the head teacher will determine the number of days a student can be away from school. **A leave of absence is granted entirely at the head teacher's discretion**'.*

If the school does not receive a request for leave, the head teacher will be unable to consider your individual circumstances and the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. There will be no obligation on the head teacher to reconsider authorising the leave if an application has not been made in advance.

The Local Authority operates a system where any student will meet the criteria for legal intervention where they have:

1. 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence where some or all of the absence may be attributed to an unauthorised holiday in term-time (for absences from 1 September 2017); or
2. 15% unauthorised absence over a period of six school weeks for reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday.

The intervention could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice. Any student at Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form who meets either of the criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child which must be paid in one payment in 21 days. If unpaid, a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued; both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. You should be aware that failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

Please ensure that you complete an Application for Leave of Absence Form if you intend to take your child out of school at any time other than illness or medical appointments. These are available for collection from School Reception.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13 September 2019 - Awards Evening—Junior and Senior

Wednesday 18 September 2019 - Year 7 Information Evening

Monday 23 September 2019 - Year 13 Meet the Form Tutor Evening

Tuesday 24 September 2019 - Year 7 Meet the Form Tutor Evening

Wednesday 25 September 2019 - Year 12 Meet the Form Tutor Evening