

# Thorpe Life Excellence for all



[www.thorpestandrewschool.org](http://www.thorpestandrewschool.org) | Twitter @tsas\_norwich | [office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk)

## #weARE

Issue 1: 11 September 2020

This week has seen the successful reopening of the school site for all students. Our test and learn phase with our induction programmes for all year groups has meant we have addressed issues and practised how each school will be run. Students have embraced the changes and have been engaged in their new school's learning environments.

Our separate Year Schools mean that students are in the same bubble or family and we can reduce transmission across the school and keep students and Year School staff safe. Due to our Year School this means rooms are not cleaned after every lesson and learning is not disrupted. Enhanced cleaning is in place across the school in line with government guidance at the end of the day and there is cleaning of bathroom facilities during the day. Please read School Matters, available on the website, for full details of our Health and Safety responses to COVID 19. Students seem reassured by the measures we have taken to keep them safe and we will continue to reinforce and take action as needed, following government guidance, to maintain this.



As we aim for excellence for all, our students are certainly showing they are up for the challenge.

*P. Bignell*

## After School Clubs

Although we are not currently running clubs and after school activities we hope to be able to operate from the week beginning Monday 28 September 2020 in year groups.

The Department of Education has also issued guidance for parents and carers, please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

At these times it is good to see students attending outside school clubs. The government advice is that you limit the range of clubs your children attend and check they are operating in a COVID secure manner.

## School Reopening

**Please remember**, if your child feels **unwell** on any of the days when they are supposed to be in school they should not attend and you should contact the absence line in the normal way. If you are demonstrating COVID symptoms such as a new persistent cough, a temperature, (please check this with a thermometer, it should be 37°C) or loss of taste and smell, the whole family will need to self-isolate for 14 days and arrange for a test as soon as possible. Please follow the link below:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus/getting-tested-for-coronavirus>

If the test returns negative then the family can stop isolating and the child can return to school that day. There is currently very high demand for testing in Norfolk which is causing delay.

Please be absolutely sure your child is displaying COVID symptoms and not colds, nasal complaints, headaches and sickness which we are all starting to experience as we see more people.

## Thought of the Week

At Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form we aim for excellence for all. We believe excellence is a result of consistent behavioural traits: **Aspiration, Respect and Engagement**. All interactions in the school will reflect these traits in order to build a strong sense of focus and purpose.

Students must:

**Aspire** to achieve by aiming for excellence in every way

**Respect** all others and their environment by demonstrating exceptional behaviour at all times

**Engage** with their learning effectively by consistently demonstrating an excellent attitude to learning

Who are we?

We ARE:

We ARE: Aspirational, Respectful, Engaged.



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September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### 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 effect 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: at least 9 sessions (4.5 school days) lost to unauthorised absence by the student during the last 6 school weeks.

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

If a fixed penalty notice is issued the arrangement for the payment will be detailed on the penalty notice. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of the receipt of the notice. The fixed penalty notice is per parent per child. You should be aware that failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Principal



### A Message from the Chair of Trustees, Yare Education Trust

#### Ian Clayton MBE

Ian Clayton decided at the close of the academic year that the opportune moment had come for him to retire as CEO of The Yare Education Trust. He feels that the time is right for him personally, for family reasons and for the Trust as it continues to develop. Trustees accepted Ian's wish to retire and his retirement took effect from Monday 31 August 2020.

Ian Clayton has given long and significant service as Principal of Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form which he led to the Ofsted evaluation of 'Outstanding'. His energy and creativity in setting up and leading The Yare Education Trust through its early stages have provided a solid foundation on which Trustees can plan the next phase of growth.

The Board of Trustees and I wish Ian a fulfilling and relaxing retirement after so many years' service to the children and teachers in Norfolk schools.

We have asked Mrs Fletcher, currently Director of Schools, to become Acting CEO. Trustees have every confidence in Mrs Fletcher's ability to maintain the ongoing programme of development in our schools and to lead the Trust as it continues to develop.

**Dr Steynor**  
Chair of Trustees

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**Cooking in DT Lessons** Students will NOT be able to leave perishable goods in the fridges or pick up dishes after their lessons as DT is a multi year use building. Please provide students with an insulated bag to carry perishable ingredients in and transport completed dishes at the end of the lesson. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Parking

Please can we ask all parents to use our park and stride scheme to pick up students from the car park or Fitzmaurice Pavilion or Thorpe Recreation Ground. Due to the Year Schools set up and buses picking up from the gates it is even more congested on the roads around the school. There are significant health and safety concerns for students with so many cars and the potential for damage to cars.

Please support the school, your child and the community and use park and stride.

## Health and Safety Briefing

Students will be having a daily Health and Safety briefing from Monday 14 September 2020 in AM form. This is really important to remind us all of how we need to behave at these times.

We are reminding students of the need to sanitise as they arrive and wash hands frequently as well as avoiding social contact with others.



## Important Reminder

All students using school buses or public transport must wear face masks when on the bus. Please ensure your child has a mask to wear.



## Remote Learning

At this time we are NOT recalling our Chromebooks and laptops students have at home. This is ensure all students are able to access our online learning if they have to self isolate and stay at home. Details of our provision and how to access it will be in next week's newsletter. These will be really useful to ensure students complete all homework and access and finish class tasks to ensure they are fully engaged in their learning.



### School Uniform

Please be advised that the current school uniform continues to be purchasable from John Lewis. From Saturday 31 October 2020 our uniform supply moves fully to Stevensons. We are aware that John Lewis is out of stock of some items and sizes so some items are available now on the Stevensons website or available in store prior to us moving fully over to them for supply.

You can, from now, register with Stevensons as they have a dedicated account page for our school where you can see items specific to Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form. More items will be added as they become available over the next two months with a full move to Stevensons in November. Please see their website for more details.

The main school uniform has not changed. See below for details on the PE uniform.

#### School Skirts

Please note that the **pencil skirt** is **not** part of the school uniform and is NOT allowed to be worn for Years 7 to 9.

For students in Years 10 and 11, we are requesting that when you replace a skirt, you purchase the new navy pleated skirt. Students may not wear a black skirt or a stretchy skirt as these have never been acceptable school uniform. Students may alternatively wish to wear navy trousers if they do not wish to wear the pleated skirt. This will mean that all students in all year groups should be in the pleated skirt from September 2021.

#### PE Uniform

The PE uniform will change in October and will give the students more choice in what they wear. The current uniform of the maroon polo shirt and jogging bottoms will remain acceptable until your child grows out of it. We are expecting most students to be in the maroon top for this year. However, our current PE uniform does not contain a warm top and as students are coming to school in their PE kit for the days when they have PE they will soon need something warm to wear. This warm top is now available on the Stevensons website now for pre-order with the expectation this will be delivered for mid-October.

The contact details for Stevensons is below:

Stevensons, 67 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3AD

[www.stevensons.co.uk](http://www.stevensons.co.uk)

Email: [norwichbranch@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:norwichbranch@stevensons.co.uk)

Phone: 01603 622355

#### Uniform Infringements

Please ensure that your child attends school in the correct uniform. The Governors of Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form believe it is important that a School Uniform Policy exists for the main school and that it is followed by all students and enforced by their parents and the school. A uniform helps support the ethos of the school and a student's pride and commitment to being part of it.

**Please see the most recent version of School Matters emailed to you in July and on the website which contains all the details of the school uniform.**

If a student attends the school in incorrect uniform, as they enter the school this will be challenged at the school gate by the member of staff on gate duty.

BEST will call home and request that the parent brings the correct item of uniform into school or arranges for the student to return home to collect the item.

If the item is for removal, for example hair colour or a nose piercing, BEST will inform the parent that this must be removed by the following day. Clear retainers are allowed for nose piercings. BEST will inform the parent that the student must be in correct uniform the following day or the student will be in the Hub Period 1, Period 2 and break and complete their lessons in the Hub.

Repeated failure to wear the uniform correctly will be treated as a persistent failure to follow instructions and will be treated as such.

### Mini Buses

We have two mini buses up for sale. They are off road at the moment, but if you are

interested, please put in a bid to [office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk).



### School Meals

Our caterers are endeavouring to provide a range of hot and cold food daily in all our Year schools.

Unfortunately, money loaders can not be used currently due to the situation so parents need to put money on to ParentPay so students can buy food. Biometric readers for fingerprints are cleaned after every use.