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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

THOMAS ADAMS SIXTH FORM ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Jenni Whitfield BA (Joint Hons), Tom McAleavy BA (Hons)



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we quickly approach the end of another more normal but equally challenging year, I must again say how impressed I am with the resilience of the students and again a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support.

Parent Survey

Having now completed a full analysis of the recent Trust Parent Survey, here are the key points from the responses received. The main theme of the responses was overwhelmingly positive with some extremely helpful and constructive feedback, which we have already started to action.

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to complete it, we have found it particularly useful as part of our ongoing self-evaluation and improvement. As always, I would remind people we are always grateful for feedback.

Some of the identified strengths were:

- Children enjoy and feel safe at school.
- Parents would recommend the school to other parents
- My child does well at school
- A very good choice of subjects on offer
- The wide selection of extra-curricular clubs available to pupils

Suggestions around the following areas:

- Further support for mental health and well being
- Improved information about the curriculum the children will study throughout the year
- Frequency and quantity of homework
- Some low-level behaviour incidents in lessons

Some actions we have already taken in response to this parental feedback:

We have completed a whole school audit of Mental Health and Wellbeing and there is an action plan in place for September. Mrs Whitfield has also completed the National Educational Leaders in Mental Health training course and will be the designated lead on this area in school.

We have revamped our curriculum section on our school website. Parents/Carers are now able to view what their children are being taught along with an overview of all of what the curriculum has to offer at Thomas Adams School. (<https://thomasadams.net/curriculum-organisation/>)

We are currently reviewing how homework is set and monitored in school. Pupils will be given planners again in September to record all work set and we encourage parents/carers to check and sign this weekly as Form Tutors will be checking this regularly. There is also open access to a computer room every lunchtime where pupils can complete any work in school if there are barriers at home; this will be supervised by staff.



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A new tiered system of reports has been introduced to tackle instances of low-level disruption. There have also been a number of Behaviour Support Meetings with Senior members of staff to ensure that school, home, and pupils are all working together to improve behaviour.

Timings of the day and rationale

After much reflection and review of the provision this year and the impact on extra-curricular lunchtime activities, we have decided to return to our pre-pandemic timings for the school day. The start and end of the day remain the same, but the structure of the day has changed. Having worked with this structure before the pandemic, we know that it works, and it allows us to offer a more extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities. I am sure it will feel a little different to start with in September, but I am sure everyone will soon get used to it. We have also moved form time back to the start of the day, to allow form tutors to meet their form group, set the tone for the day and complete important learning and administration. Please see below the new timings:

8.45 - 9.00	Form time
9.05 -10.05	Lesson one
10.10 - 11.10	Lesson two
11.10 - 11.25	Break time
11.30 - 12.30	Lesson three
12.35 - 1.35	Lesson Four
1.35 - 2.15	Lunch time
2.20 - 3.20	Lesson Five

Bus timings

Alongside transport provider Lakeside Coaches, we are looking at the possibility of introducing a digital bus pass system to help improve everyone's safety when travelling to and from school. There will be no additional cost to parents, and we will let you know more when the details become available.

Picking up/Dropping off and Parking in areas surrounding the school

Can I please ask all parents/carers and Sixth form students to be considerate of our neighbours when picking up/dropping off or parking close to the school, in particular areas around Noble Street, Rose Marie Court, and Bailey Close.

Start of Next term

We have PD (Professional Development) days on Monday 5th September and Tuesday 6th September. **All pupils start back to school at 8.45am on Wednesday 7th September.**

6th Form Update

Year 12 and 13 begins on the 7th of September, with a form time session and briefing taking place from 8.45 onwards, details will be posted on student's teams pages and communicated home via Arbor. On Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th September several students will be re-sitting June examinations, these students need to ensure they are well prepared for these examinations and work over the summer in order to do so. Students have been reminded to engage in active research over the summer regarding their futures after 6th form, advice and guidance will be readily available when they return and begin applications. Year 13 is a busy but exciting time, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds!

Results days reminder

A-Level results can be collected from the Stanier Hall from 9am on Thursday 18th August 2022. Year 12 Students who sat Food, Sport or Health and Social Care Exams can pick up results at the same time as A Level students. GCSE results can be collected from the Stanier Hall from 9am on Thursday 25th August 2022. Year 10 students that sat external exams can collect their results at 10am.

A-Level and GCSE results can be emailed out to students. Email requests must be made to the exams officer in advance of results day. Please email Rebecca Kinnon at rlk@thomasadams.net

Uniform

We understand the cost implications of buying uniform. Therefore, please refer to the following link before making purchases to ensure you do not buy items that will not be allowed. On the link, you will find our policy on uniform and how to access support if you have issues with this.

<https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/uniform-policy-August-2022.pdf>

Furthermore, if you have any uniform that is no longer required, we would gratefully receive any donations so that we can offer a 'pre-loved' provision.

Safeguarding over the summer

The chat function on TEAMS will be turned off on Monday 25th of July. Should you or your child need to contact school, please use either enquiries@thomasadams.net or tellus@thomasadams.net. These emails will only be monitored periodically, so please do not expect an immediate reply. Therefore, if you are concerned that someone may be in danger, please contact the Shropshire Safeguarding Team on **0345 678 9021**. You can also contact 111 for health issues or 101 for the police. Finally, you can find help and guidance by following this link to an information page on our website, scroll to the bottom of the page to the section entitled 'Information for External Support Services available to Children, Parents and Families':

<https://thomasadams.net/key-information/>

Please see below a link to an extremely useful leaflet from Shropshire Child Protection team on the Topic of Child Exploitation and advice for parents and carers.

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/assets/clients/6/Shropshire%20Downloads/Shropshire%20Child%20Exploitation%20-%20Leaflet%20for%20Parents%20%20Carers.pdf>

Please be aware that a Year 7 boy with a severe nut allergy is joining the school in September. The canteen is already nut-free, and we will take all practical precautions, and it would also be greatly appreciated if you would please reduce, or cut out, the number of food items containing nuts that your child brings into school.

The school is now cashless, so please ensure that your ParentPay account is up to date with the correct details.

Attendance

Before returning in September, we would appreciate it if you could discuss attendance with your child(ren) and talk about the importance of being in lessons every day and on time. This is vital and will help your child(ren) make good progress in Thomas Adams. We ask that any medical appointments are booked out of school hours, or as near to the start or end of the day as possible. This will ensure that the amount of school time missed is kept to a minimum. We also ask that hard copies of appointments, hospital letters etc. are provided to the Attendance Team so that this absence can be authorised. Finally, if your child is too ill to attend school, then you must inform the Attendance Team on each day of the absence. If your child(ren) have absence below 94% then medical evidence must be provided for every absence for us to authorise this. If you feel that you need help and guidance on any matters relating to attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us by calling 01939 237000, or by emailing attendance@thomasadams.net. We are happy to support you with any concerns you may have.

Please continue to follow the school on Facebook and Instagram –

<https://www.facebook.com/ThomasAdamsWem>

<https://www.instagram.com/thomasadamswem/>

Wishing you all a happy summer holiday with hopefully some nice weather. Again, many thanks for your continued support.



Mark Cooper
Headteacher