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THE
MALLING
SCHOOL

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15th December 2023

JVe/KTr

Dear Parents / Carers

End of Term 2 Newsletter

I hope this end of term update find you and your families well and looking forward to a restful Christmas break.

2022-2023 was an incredible year for TMS. We received a fantastic Ofsted Report, graded as Outstanding in Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development & Leadership. We also had record GCSE results, making TMS one of the best performing non-selective schools in Kent. This success is only possible because of your incredible support, our exceptionally talented, loyal and hard-working staff and of course our amazing pupils, thank you to you all.

Sports updates

This has been another great term for TMS sports teams:

The year 8 boys football team are through to the next round of competition after winning their first game in tremendous fashion, coming away victorious in a 7-0 show of dominance. They also won their next match 4-0 to continue their run of good form.



Our year 11 boys football team also had a convincing win in a recent match against Waterfront UTC. The boys finished the game as 6-1 victors and showed determination and an excellent work ethic throughout.



The dominant run of form continued, as the year 10/11 girls football team beat MGGS in a hard-fought 3-2 win to see them progress in their competition.



Next up saw the year 7 and 8 girls take a 2-0 win over St Simon Stock. This game also featured some of our older girls participating in their first run out as match officials!



Our year 7 boys took part in a 4-way round robin tournament against Wrotham, Aylesford and Holmesdale. The boys played well, finishing second overall which means progression to the premiership group for future fixtures.



The rugby season has also kicked off in fine style, seeing our year 9 boys beat Aylesford 36-7 and beating Cornwallis 38-5. Dominant performances all round!



Our year 7 boys took part in their first set of fixtures in what will become a set of illustrious rugby careers at TMS. The young players had a comfortable 30-10 win of St Augustine's Academy. The second game against Holmesdale was a tighter affair, with a 0-0 score line until the dying minutes when a solitary try gave the boys a 5-0 win. The last game of the evening against Aylesford ended with yet another win, with a scoreline of 15-10.



Ashleigh Wells in year 11 has won an award from The Pauline Quirke academy for a short film that she wrote and directed. She has also received a National credit for being assistant Director on a film about Ukraine.

Everyone at The Malling School would like to congratulate Ashleigh on her achievements- well done!



Pastoral focus for term 3

We would like to congratulate the significant majority of pupils who attend regularly, punctually and in full uniform. As we approach the new year, we would like to remind all pupils that we continue to have high expectations on these areas and we will talk about these things in our assemblies when we return in January. You will receive a separate letter about expectations and how you can support your child.

Gallery of Excellence

We continue to celebrate the excellent work completed by so many of our pupils and the gallery of excellence (link below) shows just a sample of the amazing work completed this term.

 [GOE Winter 2023.mp4](#)

Cumulative Assessments

Across Terms 2 & 3, our year 7, 8, and 9 students will have cumulative assessments. These tests will assess students' knowledge and understanding of the content they have covered in these subjects to date and will be held during regular classes in exam conditions. Students with special arrangements will have their support provided.

While these assessments are internal, they are crucial for consolidating knowledge and preparing for future success. They are a chance for students to get familiar with formal assessments, helping teachers identify areas needing more attention. Building good revision habits is key and our revision guide offers effective techniques. The revision guides can be found on the [letters page of our website](#) (November 2023).

We encourage your involvement in supporting your child's preparation. You can reassure them, review the revision guide together, discuss their concerns, create a revision schedule, quiz them, and organise revision materials.

Please use the provided KS3 Revision Guide for guidance on topics, revision, and additional support. Assessment scores will be shared in the upcoming reports. For subject-specific queries, contact the subject teacher; for broader concerns, reach out to the Pastoral Leader.

We wish your child the best and encourage them to communicate any worries or questions to their teachers or support staff.

Homework

Based on feedback from our school community, we have made changes to our homework systems and processes to ensure that we are providing the right level of support for our students to complete work outside of the classroom. We have implemented the following:

We review missed homework logs on a weekly basis, instead of cumulatively. If we notice that a student has received multiple no homework codes, they are issued with a compulsory homework catch-up session in the form of a reflection. If a student is issued with compulsory catch-up sessions over multiple weeks, we will call a parental meeting to discuss barriers and additional assistance that can be provided to ensure that homework is completed.



We have also reviewed in school provision to support students in completing their homework. We have spaces where students can complete their homework before and after school, as well as at lunchtime. To further strengthen communication regarding homework we will be publishing homework timetables for each year group at the start of term 3.

Year 11 Mock Exams

The year 11 mock exams are scheduled from 22nd January 2024, for 3 weeks. We have coordinated the mock exams to replicate the real GCSE timetable as closely as possible with students meeting in the hall at 08.50 each morning before their exams.

Lunch will be at 12:10 – 12:50pm for all students throughout this period due to the exam timetable. Students and their parents/carers will receive personalised timetables via email.

Exams will follow GCSE protocols in designated rooms. Specific access arrangements will be accommodated separately. Students will attend regular lessons when not in exams.

You can help your child to prepare for these examinations by discussing the exams and the work they need to do to prepare for them, ensuring completion of revision homework, displaying the timetable, testing at home, and providing a quiet study space.

A letter with further details, including the full exam regulations, will be sent out in due course but please see below a reminder of equipment that **must not** be brought into the examination room:

- No phones, watches, web-enabled devices, food (except medical), or labelled drinks allowed in exam rooms.

We understand the impact of exams on our students and offer support. Reach out to the year 11 Pastoral Team for questions or concerns. For exam-related queries, contact Mr Osmond (jake.osmond@themallingschool.kent.sch.uk).

Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 8th February 2024

As part of our commitment to ensuring that each student's curriculum is challenging, rewarding and provides better life chances, all pupils in year 9 will soon make their choices on the subjects they wish to take for their GCSEs. The evening will begin with a short talk in the main hall, followed by time to visit stands for each of the option subjects. During the evening, information on the subject choices will be given to pupils together with an options booklet containing course details and other important information. There will be an opportunity to meet with subject teachers and discuss the subjects on offer. Please look out for the letter in the New Year for further details.

Adverse weather conditions

As part of our commitment to keeping you informed about the impact of severe weather on our school operations, we will provide regular updates regarding the snow conditions during the winter season. Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families, and we want to ensure that everyone stays informed about any potential disruptions to our regular schedule.



Our new website feature, accessible [here](#), offers real-time updates on school closures caused by adverse weather conditions. Furthermore, relevant updates will be promptly communicated on our Facebook page whenever necessary.

Parent Surveys

Our relationship with our school community is hugely important to us, we always value feedback to help us in our drive for continuous development. The general message is one of positivity with some excellent results and supportive comments which are greatly appreciated and hugely motivational for our amazing staff. Below is a summary of some of the key responses:

- 96% of parents agree that their child feels safe at TMS
- 95% of parents agree that TMS makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
- 98% of parents agree that TMS has high expectations and the teaching is good.
- 99% of parents agree that TMS has a good range of subjects available
- 98% of parents agree that their child can take part in clubs and activities at TMS.
- 94% of parents would recommend TMS to another parent.

We take time to analyse the survey responses, very much appreciating the feedback and follow up with constructive conversations with parents and carers. Thank you for leaving your contact details so we can contact you and keep developing and improving our provision.

Thank You

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff, students, parents, and carers for their ongoing support this academic year. I am extremely proud of our whole school community that continues to grow closer going from strength to strength, thank you to you all.

Have a safe and restful Christmas



John Vennart
Headteacher

