



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Mr J G Harrison, B. Ed. (Hons) **Headteacher**

Dear Parents and Carers

17th September 2009

Now that we have settled into the new year it seems the opportune time to write to you and bring you up to date with one or two issues.

Firstly, as my brief ParentMail at the end of last year mentioned, I am delighted that we have received planning approval for an all weather sports pitch. There are a few conditions to address, for example we require a detailed tree planting scheme. However, we are confident we can satisfy all the planners' conditions. It is our desire to progress this project as quickly as possible and, following a full Governors' Meeting in the next few weeks, I will write to you again about this exciting opportunity.

My thanks to those of you who responded positively to my request for volunteers prepared to accompany school trips. The response has been overwhelming (over 120 offers – thank you!) and we are now planning an information evening for you all. Once we have everything in place we will contact everyone directly.

My congratulations to last year's Year 11s and 13s for their excellent examination results. I was particularly delighted by the Year 11s who achieved the highest ever proportion of A/A* results and this year over 40% of that year group achieved at least 5 or more A and A* grades including English and Mathematics – a tremendous achievement. Full details of the results will be posted on the website in due course. I look forward to seeing Year 13 again at the "Success '09" evening on 15th December.

Finally, I would like to tell you about our Year 7 cohort this year. Many of you will be aware that this year we were required to admit more than our standard admission number of 180 students. Indeed, on 2nd September 207 Year 7 boys started with us. All schools have a planned admission number (ours is 180) and we are forbidden by law to admit more than that number into our year groups. Schools can, however, be required to admit more under the direction of the Independent Appeal Panel (IAP). That is what has happened this year at TWGSB and reflects the large number of boys doing well in their PESE tests in West Kent and the popularity of our School.

The IAP decisions meant that we have organised our Year 7 into 7 tutor groups rather than the usual 6. However, due to the size of the school, we have been able to staff the timetable without major problems. Some specialist staff have been recruited to ensure no-one is disadvantaged by this decision and the installation of extra Science laboratories last year has meant we have sufficient specialist rooms (just!).

The School was required to admit 7 classes a few years ago and those boys are now in our Sixth Form so this is not the first time we have had to deal with this situation and I am entirely confident that we can provide for all the boys' needs, both in the Year 7 classes and all other year groups.

I hope that you all had a super summer and that term has started well for you and your sons or daughters.

The term 1 newsletter will be sent home via ParentMail and posted on our website in late October.

Yours sincerely

J G Harrison
Headteacher

Please don't forget the PTA AGM at 7.00 pm on Monday 21st September in the School Library. All welcome.



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