

**Nurturing Today's
Young People,
Inspiring Tomorrow's
Leaders**

Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to our new half-termly newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those families new to Tong Leadership Academy.

We've had a great start to the year. The students are looking really smart in their new uniforms and are already showing us they have the potential to achieve great things.

I am pleased to inform you that student attendance across the school is better than in previous years but it is also important to stress again the link between good attendance and exam success.

We are immensely proud of our students as they are so welcoming and positive, approaching the opportunities we provide with enormous enthusiasm. We work regularly with a whole variety of partners such as Deloitte, Bradford University and increasingly partners from across the Trust - they are all unanimous in their praise of our students. Our recent successful Citizenship Day, which involved our students working with more than fifty partners from across the community, was a great opportunity for them to demonstrate their potential and good character. As always, they succeeded in style!

Please look out for our next newsletter and enjoy the half term break.

Kindest Regards

Stephen Curran

Principal



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Student Support

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Student Progress Leader</u>	<u>Learning Mentor</u>
Year 7	Mrs Morren	Mr Khan
Year 8	Mrs Oldroyd	Miss Ayub
Year 9	Mrs Chaplin	Miss Bebb
Year 10	Miss Baxter	Ms Jaimes
Year 11	Mrs Wreford	Miss Gill

Meet the Year Teams

This year there have been some changes and new additions to the year team structure in school. We welcome Miss Ayub and Ms Jaimes, who have recently joined the school and will be working with year 8 and year 10.

The first point of contact for any issues in school should be the year team, either through phoning school or sending a note inside the student planner. Year teams are extremely busy and will endeavour to get back to families as soon as possible.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff in person, please contact school for an appointment. Please note that it is unlikely that year teams will be available should you arrive in school without an appointment.



Student Voice Elections

This half term the Student Voice elections have taken place in school and the Year Group Councils have been elected. Across all year groups the competition was strong and one student from each form has now been elected as Student Voice Representative.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills through representing the views of students in their form at the Year Group Council. We will shortly begin the election process to select the Executive Representative for each year group who will sit on the Executive Council.

The school system mirrors the British democratic process, with students able to raise issues with the senior leadership team at the Executive Council meetings.

Well done to all the elected students!



We would like to set up a Parents' forum which would meet each half term at school. Here we would discuss our current work and plans for the future so we can obtain the views of parents' at every stage, If you are interested in joining the Parents' forum, please contact Mr Fitzpatrick via reception to discuss further.



Punctuality

This half term we have had a strong focus on punctuality to school and lessons. Being late now results in a one hour same day reflection. We would like to thank families for their support of the new strategy which has led to a significant decrease in lateness. Now let's work together to make it even better!

"The number of students arriving late has reduced significantly"

Uniform

Students are looking very smart in the school uniform. It is great to see so many students in years 8 to 11 have already adopted the new school uniform ahead of the September 2018 deadline. We expect all students to be in the correct uniform, including footwear. Supplies are now back in stock at Natasha's Schoolwear and The Uniform Shop in Bradford. Please see our website at www.tongschool.co.uk/school-uniform for detailed guidance.



Attendance Matters - Every Lesson Counts

The greater your child's attendance, the greater their achievement.

Regular attendance is extremely important and there is a clear statistical link between high attendance and high achievement.

There are 13 weeks allocated for school holidays across the year and we believe that there is very rarely the need to take family holidays outside of these dates. Absence damages a child's education and therefore we take a very strong stance on this. In line with Government regulations,

we cannot authorise holidays in term time. Parents who take their children on an unauthorised holiday may receive a fixed penalty fine of £60 per student per parent.

Attendance is fundamental to success and we thank parents and carers for their support.

Did you know?

- * Of students nationally who miss more than 50% of school, only 3% achieve 5 good GCSE passes
- * Of students nationally who miss between 10% and 20% of school, only 35% achieve 5 good GCSE passes.
- * Of students nationally who miss less than 5% of school, 73% achieve 5 good passes at GCSE

Intervention

In order to maximise the potential of all our learners, good quality teaching and learning is supported with intervention which is targeted to support individual students.

Intervention programmes range from reading, literacy and numeracy support in year 7 and 8 to English, Maths and subject specialist intervention support in years 9 to 11. These sessions are aimed at maximising the potential of learning and improving individual students' exam success.

Home Learning

There are lots of on-line resources available to help your child learn. Spending time studying at home will greatly improve exam success. Various resources and support guides can be found on our website at www.tongschool.co.uk/home_learning.

Please encourage your child to use these resources either at home or in our Love to Learn centre.

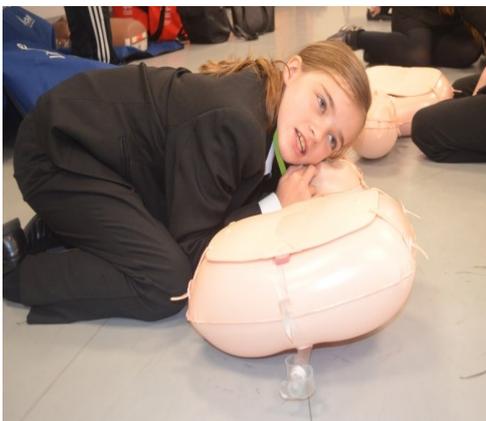
Please remember to sign your child's planner each week to keep up to date with homework set and progress made.



Citizenship Day

Enriching the education of our students

First On Scene Paramedics trained Year 7 students on how to check for signs of life and how to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as part of 'Restart A Heart' Day.



The Chantelle Bleau Memorial Foundation spent time with students to help raise awareness of the dangers of substance abuse.



Primary School Partnership

Our dedicated games team continues to organise and host events for many of our local Primary School children, giving them the opportunity to use our fantastic facilities. Events so far this term include:

Cross Country

Football Tournaments

Swimming Lessons

We are looking forward to the upcoming Drama Day, Quicksticks tournament and Ballroom Dancing event!



Out and About

Trips and visits are very beneficial to our students, providing them with valuable learning experiences. Some of the many visits this term include:

- ◆ Year 7 students took a stroll around the local area to collect research data as part of their Geography module.
- ◆ Year 10 students visited The Centenary Pavilion in Leeds to meet employers, apprenticeship providers and higher education institutes and to see demonstrations and take part in activities to increase their knowledge of the opportunities available to them.
- ◆ Year 11 visited the National Apprentice Show in Harrogate to learn about the many options for further education.

Year 12 and 13 students spent time at the NHS careers event in Bradford, learning about possible career options within the NHS.





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www.tongschool.co.uk

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School Counselling Service

Our School Counsellor and Youth Worker offer a counselling service to students in The Centre, Monday-Thursday 8am-2.15pm. Students should see a member of their year team should they need a referral. Some of the programmes on offer are:

- ◆ Anger Management
- ◆ Boys' Confidence Building
- ◆ Bereavement
- ◆ Girls' Self Esteem
- ◆ Friendship
- ◆ Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships
- ◆ Internet Safety

Post 16 Open Evening

Post 16 Open Evening - 9th November
5.30pm-7.30pm

With our best results ever, our 6th form really is the obvious choice for further education. The evening is open to all year 10 and 11 students and their families. Come along and see what we have to offer.



Road Safety

As the days are getting shorter, and students are travelling to and from school in the dark, we are asking for your support in ensuring your child's safety. During assemblies, we will be explaining to your child the importance of:

- ◆ Walking to school in well lit areas.
- ◆ Crossing busy roads at pedestrian crossings and away from road junctions
- ◆ Listening carefully for approaching traffic

If you are dropping your child at school, or collecting them at the end of the day, you can also help to ensure that our students are safe by:

- ◆ Dropping your child off or collecting your child inside the school grounds in the designated area, so that they do not need to cross Tong Street in an unsafe place.
- ◆ Not parking on double yellow lines.
- ◆ Driving slowly and carefully in and around the school grounds. The speed limit inside school grounds is 5mph.



Dates for the Diary

Upcoming Holidays 2017 (full holiday dates can be found on the website)

October Half Term - school closes at 2.15pm on Friday 20th October and re opens at 8.15am on Monday 30th October.

Christmas Holiday - school closes at 2.15pm on Friday 15th December and re opens at 8.15am on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Parents' Evenings 2017/2018 (starting from 5.30pm)

Post 16 Open Evening - Thursday 9 November 2017

Year 7 Settling In Evening - Thursday 30 November 2017

Year 11 - Thursday 11 January 2018

Year 10 - Thursday 25 January 2018

Year 9 - Thursday 22 February 2018

Year 8 - Thursday 10 May 2018

Year 7 - Thursday 14 June 2018

Year 11 Prom
Friday 29th June 2018
Tickets £27 (pay weekly available)

Post 16 Exam Success 2017