



September 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome back. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break.

Exam Results Show a Strong Improvement at Tong

Our GCSE results have shown a significant improvement on last year's performance with 39% of students achieving the government's benchmark of A*-C grades in Maths and English – up by 5 percentage points on last year.

Additionally, our sixth form students have recorded an impressive 99% overall pass-rate at A-Level with 24 of 26 subjects achieving a 100% pass rate. Tong's sixth form is a centre of excellence for sixth form studies in Bradford. Tong's impressive record of improvement over the past couple of years has cemented it as one of the highest performing school sixth forms in the area.

These results demonstrate the strong progress the school is making, and that the hard work the school is undertaking to drive up standards is having a positive impact on the life chances of students.



Ofsted

On the 29th and 30th April 2015, Tong High School was inspected by OFSTED - the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. This visit gave us a valuable external perspective. We then received a follow up Section 8 Inspection in January 16 and a Section 5 Inspection in June 16 and both follow up inspections have shown that leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of the 'serious weaknesses' designation and that the school's improvement plan is fit for purpose.

Academy News

The academy conversion process is now almost complete. Since January, Tong has had a number of TET staff working at Tong. In April, one of TET's Head teachers, Lisa Corrigan joined the Tong team as Academy Improvement Director to develop leadership and teaching and learning and from September, Collette Roberts will now take the role as Academy Improvement Director.

Assessments and Progress

There are significant changes taking place to assessment nationally and, as a consequence, we are changing the way we assess our students and report to you on their progress. We will write again with more information about these change. You will receive five reports throughout the year detailing your child's progress.

Compulsory Intervention

We will be tracking our students' progress closely and, if we feel a student needs additional support to accelerate their progress, we may identify them for additional intervention either in the school day, after school in Period 7 or in holiday time. We will contact you if this is the case and inform you of the arrangements we have made to enable your son/daughter to get back on track.

Attendance

Regular attendance is so important and there is a clear link between high attendance and high achievement in terms of pupil's progress and future exam results. Pupils' attendance is the best when they have the full support of their parents/carers. We will now report on attendance as follows:

Attendance	Guidance to Parents
100%	Congratulations! This is outstanding
97% or above	Excellent – BUT must be sustained
96%	Good but should improve throughout the year
95% or below	Seriously impacting on success-This MUST improve

Our Expectations

We expect high standards of conduct from all students. As part of our work to achieve the OFSTED category of Good and then Outstanding, as a school we feel it is necessary to make some positive changes to our expectations of our pupils. These will not only support the ongoing developments in Teaching and Learning but help develop your child to succeed in school and indeed later life as a more rounded individual.

Rewards

As with the current rewards system of the school, we will continue to focus on rewarding the vast majority of students who do already "get it right" - having excellent attendance, attending in full uniform and consistently working to the best of their ability and beyond. A new **rewards** structure will be launched through our new STAR Values (Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect) where students can accumulate rewards points and cash them in for prizes of their choice. They will be rewarded for full attendance, showing a sound attitude towards their studies and being good ambassadors for the school to name but a few. Students will also receive rewards stamps in their planners daily in and out of lessons which again will be added on to their rewards score in tutorial. Throughout the year there will be various achievement assemblies where certificates will be presented to recognise success.

Sanctions

We will also be raising the bar around sanctions. We will be making subtle changes to reflections which will be more curriculum orientated in the first instance. This will allow the reflection to be completed in the Curriculum area it was issued to allow for any lost learning to be swiftly caught up. As before, these reflections will be initially for 30 mins but should a student fail to attend it will increase to 60 minutes with the possibility of further sanctions should they continue to 'get it wrong'.

There will also be higher expectations of students when walking around the building out of lesson time, at break and lunches. Again, a sanction will be issued to those who do not conduct themselves in the correct manner.

Mobile Phones

As of September 2016, mobile phones will not be allowed to be seen at any time. If a student is caught with a phone on display it will be confiscated, placed in a secure location, returned after school finishes and a 30 minute detention issued. If a student continues to defy then there will be an extended sanction.

Uniform

A full Tong High School uniform list is available on our website www.tongschool.co.uk/school_uniform.htm. Students who do not wear the correct uniform will be issued with a sanction.

Pupil Planners

Every pupil will receive a new Pupil Planner this week. Planners help students to remain organised and provide pupils and parents/carers with key information. Pupils need to bring their planner each day. It is checked daily by your son/daughter's Tutor and we ask that you sign it weekly. It also contains a home school agreement, which we ask you to sign.

Catering

At Tong High School, we are very proud of our school meals. Food is available at breakfast, break and lunchtimes. A full range of healthy food is available, from individual items to 'meal deals' which include main course, dessert and a drink – the cost of a meal deal from September 2016 will be **£2.35**.

Free milk will continue to be provided daily for those students eligible for free school meals and is available at a nominal charge for other students. Your son/daughter may be entitled to receive free school meals, to find out more please contact Benefits, Britannia House, Hall Ings, Bradford, BD1 1HX, 01274 432772. Claims can also be made on-line at www.bradford.gov.uk/schoolmeals. We encourage you to claim free meals if you are eligible, even if your son/daughter may not take advantage of them every day as the school received additional funds for all eligible pupils which can be used to their benefit.

Chosen Charities

Mr Goodyear taught English at Tong High School for many years. After a long battle with leukaemia, Mr Goodyear sadly passed away in July 2015. As a school, in the academic year 15/16 we were committed to raising money for two very special charities which are important to Mr Goodyear's family and friends: The Annette Fox Unit at the B.R.I. and Bloodwise- Leukaemia Research. Thanks to the support of pupils, staff, partners and families we were able to raise £2821.58 for both charities.

Parent Council

We will continue to work closely with parents and continually seek their feedback. This ongoing engagement is critical to our approach, and the success of the school in the future. If you are interested in being part of our Parent Council we would love to hear from you. Please contact us via office@tongschool.co.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank families, past and present for their continued support for the school and look forward to working with you during the coming year.



Stephen Curran
Head teacher

Highlights at Tong - Academic Year 15/16

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the many highlights of the last academic year.

- In November, Tong raised £674.97 for Children in Need.
- In December, we hosted a terrific production of The Wizard of Oz.
- In February, Tong was crowned the MicroTyco national school champion for the third consecutive year. We turned our £1 investment into £3674.29 throughout the month-long attempt to win the national enterprise charity project. All money raised through Micro-Tyco is invested by the charity WildHearts into micro-loans for entrepreneurs to start their own businesses in developing countries.
- In February, Tong High School hosted the “Anne Frank: A History for Today” display for the second year running - provided by the Anne Frank Trust. Year 8 and 9 students led tours of the exhibition for Year 5 and 6 local primary school students.
- In February, the Tong Music BTEC group performed at St Georges Hall and came third in the AMP Awards winning a music video recording session.
- We were delighted to have been highly commended at the Bradford Telegraph & Argus School Awards 2016 for two awards; Voluntary Contribution Award and the Business in Schools Award.
- Tong Sixth Form student Aqsa Mushtaq received a football scholarship via Sports Recruiting USA to play football in America.
- In May, the Year 7 Football Team came first in the Bradford Finals.
- In May, we hosted the Primary School Accelerate Presentation Evening where 65 young people from 17 primary schools received awards for outstanding contribution to sport and the arts, swimming and the School Games Competition.
- In June, sixth form students from Tong were selected to attend the Student Pre University Court Exposure (Spruce) course to learn more about the legal profession.
- A Year 7 group of pupils secured a place at the Solutions for the Planet Finals after wowing the judges at the semi-final in Bradford. In July, they were invited to present their 'BIG IDEAS' at The Houses of Parliament. They did a great job and received a certificate of recognition from MPs.
- In July, Tong was crowned the champion of the North after beating other schools from across the North in the performance competition, Rock Challenge. Tong High School students won the final with their visually striking re-telling of the story of Pandora's Box.