



JWH/ksd/spring12

3 January 2012

## Tanbridge House School

A Specialist Science, Mathematics & Computing College

Dear Parent/Carer

As a new year begins, it is a pleasure to write to you looking forward to the very positive times that lie ahead for Tanbridge House School.

Despite the inclement weather, I am delighted to report that the mood across the school is upbeat and optimistic. I must also thank you for returning your child to us “on time” and looking really smart. Even though our basic expectations relating to punctuality, uniform and readiness for learning are well embedded, it is vital that they are maintained. Shortly Mrs Zazzaro will write in greater detail with regard to expectations for the remainder of the academic year and beyond.

As well as preparing for important examinations - particularly in Years 9, 10 and 11 - we are also looking forward to other exciting school events. These include our Spring Concert at the Capitol Theatre and our school production of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s hit musical “The Phantom of the Opera”.

Our exceptional work involving the build-up to the Olympic Games continues to pay dividends. As such, we have “adopted” Emma Wiggs - Great Britain’s Sitting Volleyball Captain - as our Olympic star to follow and support. Our work with Lord Coe and the Paralympic Day has also been rewarded, as we are one of only six schools in the South of England to be invited to join the “Young Games Maker 2012” initiative. This will see students from Year 11 take part as Olympic ambassadors and volunteers during the Paralympic Games.

I am also delighted to inform you about our new programme of communication with parents (as well as staff and students) entitled “Your Opinion Counts”. In due course, Sally Linsell (Marketing and Development Manager) will be contacting you to provide information about how we can gain your opinions about provision and life at Tanbridge House via an online and hard copy facility which senior colleagues and I will be able to respond to.

As well as our Parent Forum and Senior Leadership Team Surgery, this mechanism should be another important means of listening to and acting upon your views and comments. I would, of course, be happy to receive praise about our work too!

As I have noted previously, schools are not immune from the challenges that are being faced by so many at present. I am pleased to report however, that our popularity and strong student numbers mean that the school remains in a secure financial position and that should allow us to continue to develop and expand in the future.

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I am particularly excited about some new IT and multimedia opportunities that we are currently investigating.

Along with our governing body, I am also continuing to look at the advantages and disadvantages of moving to academy status and will, of course, keep you abreast of any potential changes.

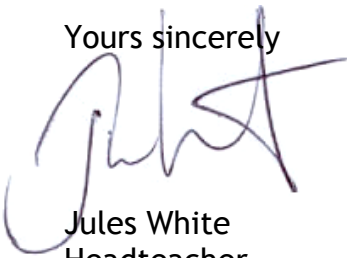
Many of you will also be aware of a Free School being proposed for Southwater and I will be writing to you separately on this matter in due course. In the meantime, I would urge parents who are most directly affected to look at the proposals in real detail. Personally, I believe that the pace of the proposal (a submission by February 2012 by Horsham Churches Together and The Oasis Trust) is far too rapid to allow meaningful consultation to take place with all relevant stakeholders.

I am led to believe that the proposed Free School is being mooted as something of a “fait accompli” and I do not believe that this is actually the case. First and foremost the best educational provision for all students in Southwater and Horsham must be carefully thought through and planned for. As and when a new school is required the long term interests of children and their families must be fully considered, regardless of any current vested political or developer interests. I would also be interested to hear your views on this particular issue.

It remains for me to close by wishing you a happy and healthy new year and I sincerely hope that any resolutions made are being strictly adhered to!

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jules White', written over the typed name.

Jules White  
Headteacher