



**Tanbridge House School**  
A Specialist Science, Mathematics &  
Computing College

JW/PMA/PAR 1009

8 September 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

**Working together for the child - Key information**

Firstly, may I wish a warm welcome all new parents to Tanbridge and a warm welcome back to parents of children already at our school. This letter contains important information for you about how to support your child at school and some opportunities for you to use some of the school's extensive resources.

We believe that working in partnership with parents is important in ensuring every child achieves their potential and is fully prepared for life in the challenging world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As part of this I am organising various activities to meet this.

**Parent Forum**

The Parent Forum will again be meeting on Tuesday 12 October 2010 at 6.15pm-7.15pm, in the new Learning Resource Centre, to further discuss how the Parents and Tanbridge House School can work together to develop support for its community. This has been a really useful way for the school to listen to issues that are a concern to parents and to act on their needs effectively. Here are some of the topics we have recently discussed: What makes an outstanding lesson?; Piloting the SIMS Learning Gateway (see below); and a Review of homework. All parents are welcome and I would like to see you there. If you are interested then please come along. There is no extra commitment from you, just this time to meet to discuss key issues for families of the school.

**Homework/Independent Learning**

Your child should by now be receiving regular homework in all subjects except PE and PSHE. All class teachers have informed students about when homework is set and when it is due in their subject. Tutors also have this information in case students are unclear. It is our expectation that students should spend the following amount of time doing homework:

Years 7 and 8	approx 20-30 minutes per subject, maximum 3 subjects per night
Year 9	approx 30-40 minutes per subject, maximum 3 subjects per night
Years 10 and 11	approx 45-60 minutes per subject, maximum 3 subjects per night

The school will continue to review our students' homework throughout this year; however, Mr Liley (Deputy Headteacher) would welcome any views you may have in the meantime. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance with any queries regarding homework, or feel free to contact me if they are unable to help.

## Leadership Team Surgery

To further support parents there is an opportunity to meet directly with a member of the Leadership Team to discuss any issues you may have regarding your child or the school. Appointments are available every Wednesday and Thursday evening between 4.15pm and 5.30pm. Please contact Mrs Katrina Dobbe, the Headteacher's PA on 01403 755974 or by e-mail [kdobbe@ths.uk.net](mailto:kdobbe@ths.uk.net) to make an appointment. It would be helpful to know the nature of your concern prior to the meeting with you. Additionally, please continue to contact us as usual if you prefer.

## Information Evenings - Key Stage 4

These are being organised for parents who have students in Year 11 and 10 on Thursday 16 September and Tuesday 21 September respectively. The aim of these is to keep parents informed of the requirements of the various examination courses and the expectations for their child at this very important time in their school lives. Please see the separate letter, which parents of Year 11 and 10 students will receive, for further details and timings.

## SIMS Learning Gateway

This year we aim to give access to every parent to the SIMS Learning Gateway. Via this software, parents will be able to find key information about their child at Tanbridge. Parents will be able to check attendance, timetable and personal details at any time of the day. In addition, it is hoped that parents will have access to incidents of positive and negative behaviour and current progress in school. Information regarding this will be sent to you later this term.

## School Trips

A list of trips, which are organised for each Year group, can be found on the Parents section of the school website. This will help you identify the various opportunities available to the students at Tanbridge House.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support for the school this coming year and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Peter Marshallsay

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