



Tibshelf Community School
Doe Hill Lane
Tibshelf
Alfreton
DE55 5LZ

27th October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

As we draw to the end of our longest half term, I would like to once again thank the students for their incredible positivity and work ethic. The large majority of our students have high standards and expectations of themselves and of each other and staff are very proud of them all. It is important to recognise the efforts of family in supporting our young people and how important this is to our community. Thank you for everything that is done to ensure the very best opportunities for our young people.

Last week we experienced the wrath of storm Babet and many of us had a challenging day. The decision to close school is only ever made in exceptional circumstances and the flooding that Derbyshire experienced was unprecedented. Thank you to parents and families who responded quickly and enabled us to clear the school site efficiently and ensure that students and staff were able to travel home safely.

There are a few key messages to share at the end of the term:

Respect

One of our character values is respect and this encompasses the fundamental values of individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. Unfortunately, in recent weeks there have been a small but significant number of incidents of abusive behaviour and language used by students. The use of racist slurs and terms has been reported, and this has occurred both in school and online.

We do not and will not accept this behaviour and students who behave in this way will be subject to our most severe consequences. I would ask that parents / carers speak to their children and remind them of the seriousness of this. We understand that a number of videos on TikTok are being widely shared and may be a contributing factor. Please remind students that the sharing of abusive content is a serious matter and students should report and delete any such content. Any student found to be sharing or in possession of such content will be dealt with in line with our malicious communications policy. When we return after the break, we will be talking to all students and ensuring they understand our core values of respect.

Headteacher: Lucie Wainwright

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Safety

Over the course of this week, we have welcomed in the fire and police services to speak to students about keeping themselves safe. As we go into half term with darker nights, Halloween and bonfire night ahead, it is vital that our young people know how to keep themselves safe and avoid risk-taking behaviours. We want all of our students to remain safe and understand the positive contribution that they can all make to their community. Again, I would encourage parents and carers to discuss these issues with their children and ensure that we live in a positive community.

Uniform

We pride ourselves on the high standards that our young people meet every day. Uniform has been a real positive over the last few weeks and I thank parents for their support in this and when dealing with small infringements. Please do use the half term break to check and refresh uniform where necessary and ensure that students have the necessary equipment and clothing as we head into winter.

I will also remind students that chewing gum is not allowed on the school site. This is a major cause of damage around the school and the site staff spend a great deal of time dealing with the disgusting consequences of chewing gum stuck to floor and furniture. Please do support us by ensuring that this is not brought into school.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful half term break and we look forwards to welcoming students back to school on Monday 6th November.

Yours sincerely,

Lucie Wainwright
Headteacher

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