



Oak



Ash



Elm

Tytherington

High School & Specialist Science College

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Achievement for All

HEADTEACHER: R.A. Robinson B.Ed., M.Sc., N.P.Q.H

RAR/SAC

6th September 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

I thought it appropriate that I write to you at the start of the new school year to update you on a number of important matters and also take the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the children and families who will be joining our school community for the first time. We look forward to working with you and sharing in your achievements and successes in the coming months and years.

Examination Results Summer 2010

I am particularly proud to be able to report the following:

- The new A* top A level grade accounted for 25 (12%) of the total grades awarded to our Year 13 students. Students must achieve marks of 90%+ to be awarded this grade. Therefore, our students achieved an amazing 50% above the national average. Four students achieved A* grades in all three of their A2 subjects and two students secured places at Oxford University.
- There were many other notable achievements, including the BTEC Finance Academy programme where all students were awarded a distinction, the equivalent of an A grade at A level.
- There were also many excellent performances from our Year 11 students with a significant number of students achieving 11 or 12 A* and A grades. 67% of students achieved 5 or more A*-C grades and the average GCSE points score per student showed an increase of 20% on the 2009 figure.

I am also delighted to report that, during the last two months, Tytherington has received three prestigious awards:

1. **The Inclusion Quality Mark.** Tytherington is the first secondary school to be awarded IQM by Cheshire East Council. Particular credit goes to Mr Maddox and members of the **Inclusion Department** for ensuring that our provision meets the exacting standards of this award.
2. **The Prince's Teaching Institute Mark 2010**
 Congratulations to Mr Davies and the **English Department** for being successful in achieving the Prince's Teaching Institute Mark which is specifically in recognition of outstanding work in the following:

"An inclusive learning community encouraging excellence, respect and personal fulfillment"



- Increasing challenge within the curriculum.
- Further enthusing students with activities beyond the curriculum.
- Developing the staff's own specialist subject knowledge.
- Developing subject-based thinking outside school.

3. The Full International Schools Award.

Thank you to Mrs Henshaw and the **Modern Foreign Languages Department** for the work they have done which has enabled the school to receive this very prestigious award. Many children and their families will have benefited from the huge range of international experiences offered by our school. It is often overlooked that Mrs Henshaw and her team have, during the last three years, been responsible for delivering a languages training programme for teachers in many Macclesfield primary schools.

Staffing update

At the end of last term, we said farewell and thank you to the following members of staff:

Miss Armstrong (Science) and **Mrs Anderson** (Mathematics) whose temporary contracts were completed.

Mr Monks (Science) who is going to return to University, full time, to complete a course in ICT.

Mrs Crothers (Mathematics) who is moving to Cheadle Hulme School.

Miss Pinkney (Geography and Head of Elm House) who is relocating to Otley, Yorkshire, to live nearer to her family in the North East.

Mr Hope (Cover Supervisor) who is going to change career.

Miss Cotterill (Teaching Assistant) who is to undertake a PGCE teaching course.

We gave a very special thank you and farewell to two of our longest serving teachers:

Mr Pearson (History and Key Stage Co-ordinator) who retired from teaching at the end of term, having spent all **33 years** of his teaching career at Tytherington.

Mr Hartley (Sociology and Drama), who retired from full time work two years ago and has now decided that it is time for full time retirement! We wished them both a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

We also said a temporary farewell to **Mrs Butterworth** (Mathematics) who is now on maternity leave.

We are delighted to welcome the following new colleagues to our staff team who will be working in the following departments:

Mr Taylor (English), **Miss MacAdie**, **Mr Jones** and **Mr Brown** (Mathematics), **Mrs Wallis** (Science), **Mr Grimshaw** (Geography), **Mrs Wearne** (RE), **Miss Bailey** (Sociology and Health and Social Care) and **Miss Hammond** (Cover Supervisor).

Congratulations to **Miss Kakarouga, now Mrs Parker**, (Mathematics) and **Miss Bale, now Mrs Pearson**, (Humanities) who both got married during the summer holidays.

STEM (Science Technology and Mathematics) Ambassadors Programme

Tytherington is one of only five Science Colleges in England to be selected by STEMNET and the Specialist Schools Trust to develop a new STEM Ambassadors programme. The STEM Ambassadors Programme enables teachers to make links from the curriculum to how STEM is practised in the world of work, illuminating applications across a vast range of careers. STEM Ambassadors are people from STEM backgrounds who volunteer as inspiring role models for young people. They can contribute both to regular lessons or participate in extra-curricular activities such as STEM clubs, career days and visits. STEM Ambassadors open the door to a whole new world for young people, helping them to see STEM subjects

and careers with a fresh perspective and engage their interest and imagination in new ways. During the course of the next academic year, Mr Thomson and Mrs McCluskey will be leading this programme which will include working with our partner primary schools and other schools in the local area.

INNOVATE - New catering provider at THS

Earlier in the year, governors decided to review our catering provision by carrying out a competitive tendering exercise. The result is that as from the 1st September 2010, our catering service is being provided by a company called INNOVATE (www.innovate-services.com). We are looking forward to developing a strong and effective partnership with INNOVATE to ensure that our catering services are of the very highest standard. More details about the new service can be found on the INNOVATE website and in the accompanying letter. Please note that cheques for school meals should now be made payable to 'INNOVATE Services'. Any existing monies on swipe cards will be automatically transferred.

Update regarding consultation on the proposed reorganisation of Secondary Education in Macclesfield

The announcement by Cheshire East Council to consult on the closure of Macclesfield High School and the expansion of Tytherington High School elicited some very emotive responses. Hopefully, the consultation events that took place in the latter part of the Summer term helped clarify the issues that need to be addressed and provide a better understanding as to why the Governing Bodies of Tytherington and Macclesfield High Schools sought approval from Cheshire East Council to consult on this proposal.

The concerns that were raised led to a decision being taken by Councillor Gaddum, the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, to extend the informal consultation period until the 8th October and broaden the range of options under consideration. At the end of the informal consultation period, a decision will be taken by Councillor Gaddum on what the next steps will be. The Council has arranged further informal consultation events at Macclesfield Town Hall on the 15th September and at Macclesfield Town Football Club on the 16th September. All interested parties are invited to attend and officers will be available at the events to provide information about the process and to record your feedback. Both events will take place between 1.00 and 3.30 p.m. and 5.00 and 8.00 p.m.

Homework

"Well organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement"
(DCSF, Standards Site 2010)

As a school, we are committed to providing students with the opportunity to study outside of lessons and your son/daughter will be required to complete homework in a wide range of subjects. The amount of time your son/daughter is expected to spend on homework will not vary depending on the 'set' he or she is in but will vary depending on the Year group. It is expected that a Sixth Form student will spend somewhere in the region of 3 to 3 ½ hours per day in additional study. For a student in Year 7, this is more likely to be nearer to 1 hour. At certain times of the year, homework will be linked to 'controlled assessment' or coursework for students in Years 10 to 13. We are currently reviewing our Homework policy. The homework that is set will be innovative and reflect developments within education. It will be designed to meet the needs of the full range of learning styles.

More details regarding homework will be forwarded to you. This will enable you to work with your son/daughter to reinforce the work of the school at home and help in raising standards further.

Traffic Congestion

I am sure that most of you are aware of the traffic congestion that occurs at the main school entrance before the start and at the end of the school day. During the last 10 years, a number of improvements have been made to the access points to the school site. However, our attempts to seek the Council's support to remodel the road layout at the junction of Manchester Road and Beech Farm Drive have to date proved unsuccessful.

To reduce traffic congestion at these times to help ensure the safety of our students, we request that all parents/carers avoid using vehicles to access the school site or, wherever possible, Beech Farm Drive, between 8.30 and 9.00 a.m. and 3.10 and 3.40 p.m. (2.50 and 3.10 p.m. on Thursdays). Students are not allowed to bring vehicles onto the school site and should not park their vehicles on the roadside on Beech Farm Drive.

Headteacher illness

I am pleased to be able to report that I have made excellent progress with my recovery following surgery for prostate cancer at the beginning of July. Progress has been so good that I was well enough to return to work at the beginning of August. However, the nature of my condition does mean that I do need to have further treatment which will take place during the next five months. This may result in some further intermittent absence, especially during December and January. It is particularly unfortunate that my illness has coincided with the ongoing consultation process regarding the possible reorganisation of secondary education in the town. However, the temporary arrangements that have been put in place (as detailed below), funded by Cheshire East Council, to provide additional capacity in leadership and management and additional classroom teachers, will ensure that there is no disruption to the normal work of the school.

Name	Position
Mr Robinson	Acting Executive Headteacher
Mr Kelly	Acting Head of School
Mrs Plevin	Acting Deputy Headteacher
Ms Gannon	Assistant Headteacher, KS5/Personnel
Mr Speak	Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral KS3/4
Mrs Taylor	Business Manager
Mr Barlow	Acting Assistant Headteacher, Pupil Progress
Mrs Hulme	Acting Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning
Mr Collins	Acting Head of Mathematics

Finally, can I once again ask for your support in ensuring that we make an excellent start to the new school year by ensuring that your son/daughter arrives at school on time, correctly dressed and appropriately equipped for lessons.

Yours sincerely

R A ROBINSON
Acting Executive Headteacher