

Principal's Bulletin, Term 1 2018/19

Dear Parent/Carer

As Term 1 draws to a close we look forward to the Autumn break, during which hopefully the students and staff can take a well-deserved break. It has been a very busy first term, one that has seen many positive changes introduced.

Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT)

Undoubtedly, the biggest change has seen Goodwin Academy join The Thinking Schools Academy Trust family. We have therefore in lessons, adopted the thinking tools pedagogical approach using keys, maps and hats. These tools enable students to think for themselves, through the development of a thorough understanding of purposeful thinking to aid and monitor their own progress. Students have responded with enthusiasm, engagement and excitement with the content and skills required to succeed, in every classroom.

To coincide with the thinking tools that are being embraced, 8 habits of mind have been identified and have been branded the 'Goodwin Gateways'. The selection of Goodwin Gateways by staff across the Academy were purposefully chosen to enhance the development of skills, techniques and strategies that will aid students to become successful within the Academy and beyond. The 8 Goodwin Gateways are:

1. Persisting
2. Listening and understanding with empathy
3. Thinking interdependently
4. Applying past knowledge to new situations
5. Striving for accuracy
6. Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision
7. Creating, imagining and innovating
8. Thinking about thinking

To assist in the implementation of the thinking tools and Goodwin Gateways, a newly formed staff 'Drive Team' has been assembled to inspire and innovate new ways for staff and students to engage in thinking skills. Their remit also includes to develop and enhance the Academy's learning environment and create a student 'thinking' team.

When visiting the school, you will see many of these 'Thinking Tools' on walls and noticeboards in classrooms and corridors. I would encourage you to ask staff and students about the keys, maps and hats and the positive impact they are having.

Open Evenings and Open Mornings

Our Open Evenings and Open Mornings have been a huge success thanks to the hard work of the teachers and dedication of the students. Students happily volunteered to 'showcase' the school, which they are exceptionally proud of, to prospective parents and guests.

On Thursday 22 November 5.00-7.00pm, we will be opening the school again for our Sixth Form Open Evening. Students will be invited to visit the Sixth Form and have the opportunity to talk to teachers and careers advisers about the opportunities available for the next stage of their education. I would encourage all Year 10 and 11 students and parents/carers to attend, as this will be an invaluable evening.

Sixth Form

There has been a recent drive on sixth form expectations and standards, this includes changes to the sixth form study areas and use of their social space. Extended Study Files have been set-up by Head of Faculties, which allow students to deepen their learning through a variety of activities in their study periods which now are timetabled for the study area. A formal weekly assembly has been introduced with students in tutor groups within relevant subject areas. A tutor programme has been designed that develops learner outlook, both within sixth form and also preparing students for life outside of Goodwin Academy. Dress code expectations have also been re-launched.

Careers

The extensive and comprehensive careers programme at Goodwin continues to support students in making informed choices for their future education, employment or further training. This starts in Year 7 and builds knowledge and skills from the outset. Students are able to ask for an independent careers interview at any time and are encouraged to do so. These are also programmed for all KS4 and 5 students, as is interview practice and CV writing skills, alongside work experience for which students are very thoroughly prepared. Students in Year 10 last year organised an Apprenticeship Fair for students, parents and carers which was well-supported by local employers and students alike and this will be held again in 2018-19, we will keep you posted on arrangements.

Deal Festival

On 29 September, 24 of our Sixth Form students led by Mrs Hamilton-Hopkins, Head of Destinations and Enrichment, volunteered 3-5 hours of their time to help with the Deal Festival. Students were involved in a number of activities including selling tickets, ushering, front of house, selling refreshments and cleaning. All students dressed smartly and conducted themselves impeccably with compliments from organisers and members of the public. Each of the students did themselves and the school proud. Mrs Hamilton-Hopkins was interviewed on Deal Radio to talk about the event and congratulated the students on their commitment and conduct.

Armistice Day

This year is the 100 year anniversary of Armistice and as such holds special significance for all of us. Goodwin Academy will be remembering and honouring those who paid the price for our freedoms, with a series of assemblies and in class activities including the creation of a memorial which will be housed in the school atrium. Lest we forget.





Uniform code

As winter is fast approaching we would encourage all students to wear a coat to and from school as the weather gets colder; these should be black, blue or a dark colour. All outside clothing must be removed as students enter the building and should not be worn during the day – this applies to all year groups.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that mobile phones are not allowed in the main building and students will have their phone confiscated if seen by staff. If students wish to use their mobile phone, then they can use it at break and lunch times outside of the school building.

Term Dates

Please find below a reminder of the term dates until the end of the Academic Year.

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| Term 2 | Tuesday 30 th October – Wednesday 19 th December 2018 |
| Term 3 | Thursday 3 rd & Friday 4 th January 2019 – Academy Closed Monday 7 th January – Friday 15 th February 2019 |
| Term 4 | Monday 25 th February – Friday 5 th April 2019 |
| Term 5 | Tuesday 23 rd April – Friday 24 th May 2019 |
| Term 6 | Monday 3 rd June – Tuesday 23 rd July 2019 |

Upcoming events

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| Year 11 Parents Evening | Thursday 15th November 2018 | 3.30-6.30pm |
| Sixth Form Open Evening | Thursday 22nd November 2018 | 5.00-7.00pm |

On behalf of the governors and staff at Goodwin Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support. The success of any school is a team effort, with students, parents and staff all working together to ensure our young people be the best they can be.

Have a restful half term, please remember the clocks change on Sunday 28 October and Term 2 starts on Tuesday 30th October.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Smith
Principal