

The Triple Crown Centre



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Miss E Clarke, Head Teacher
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Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to share with you the following information:

Easter holiday

Students break up for Easter on **Friday 8th April**, at the end of the school day.

The summer term starts for students and staff on **Monday 25th April** (normal time).

Student participation and achievement

I would like to congratulate students for the progress they have made in all areas of the curriculum this term and also for the fabulous contribution they have made to:

- ❖ The coaching provided by ASK (Amazing Apprenticeships), when students were able to develop their knowledge and understanding in relation to '*Recognising your strengths*' and '*Applying for post-16 courses*'
- ❖ The question and answer session led by a local tattoo artist/graphic designer, with students gaining an insight into his career pathway, along with challenges faced and strategies used to address these in order to achieve
- ❖ The 'Skills for Success' programme being accessed by Year 11 students, with the aim of empowering our summer leavers to adapt to change and develop the vital knowledge, skills and understanding needed to support their post-16 pathway
- ❖ A young entrepreneur's visit to school, in order to share her career journey and raise awareness of entrepreneurship and self-employment
- ❖ The Key Stage 4 visits to Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Birmingham School of Art, when students had the opportunity view the facilities, take part in workshops and investigate potential careers in Art and Design



- ❖ The nationwide 'Make Your Mark' ballot, which involved our students joining other young people across the country to vote for the issue they feel is most important for the Youth Parliament to have as campaign/project themes

- ❖ Supporting Solihull Council’s Environmental Project Team to plant 112 new trees in our school grounds, as part of the ‘Planting our Future’ project



- ❖ The planning and organising of activities for Comic Relief fundraising day
- ❖ Solihull’s Fair Trade Fortnight, when our students’ sculptures and artwork (reflecting the theme of ‘Choose the world you want’) formed part of a trail on display in shop windows around Solihull

Lateness to school

Being on time to school is a legal requirement for all children and young people. Please see below re the impact of persistent lateness.

If in a school year your child is late every day by ...	Your child would have lost approximately...	Or they would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3 days from school	16 lessons
10 minutes	5 days from school	32 lessons
15 minutes	8 days from school	48 lessons
20 minutes	11 days from school	63 lessons
30 minutes	16 days from school	95 lessons

We are expected to take appropriate action to address any punctuality concerns. Registers have to record every time a student is late to school, with an associated explanation. Persistent, severe or unexplained lateness can be classed as unauthorised absence and may be referred to the Local Authority.

Clothing

Although we currently do not expect students to wear school uniform, there is a dress code that students must adhere to. As we (hopefully) move towards finer and warmer weather, I would value your support in ensuring students arrive at school in suitable attire:

- ❖ The length and style of skirts needs to be appropriate for a place of work
- ❖ Although we don’t advocate the wearing of shorts, those that sit on the knee or just above the knee would be deemed acceptable
- ❖ Tops should cover shoulders and not be low-cut or expose the midriff

Laptops

As you are aware, we are currently in the privileged position of having enough laptops in school to enable every student to have one allocated for their use. I have recently had to remind a few students that all laptops are the property of SMBC and must be treated with respect. I am, therefore, asking for your support in reinforcing this point with your child.

Examinations

Year 11 exams

We have now received confirmed dates for GCSE exams and our written examination period is from **Tuesday 17th May to Thursday 23rd June**. For Year 11 parents/carers, a copy of your child's timetable is enclosed.

As you will be aware, the awarding of grades for this summer's GCSE Art and Design course will be entirely based on Component 1. Component 2 has been withdrawn, due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A day of assessment contributing to students' portfolio work is taking place on Tuesday 5th April. It is obviously imperative that all candidates attend.

Year 10 exams

Formal GCSE mock exams for all Year 10 students will begin on **Monday 9th May** and an examination timetable will be issued next term. These will be held in the examination room, under JCQ conditions and expectations.

I would firmly recommend that students revise and prepare themselves fully for these exams, as grades achieved will be contributing to predicted GCSE grades in Year 11.

Year 7, 8 and Year 9 exams

Internal exams for Years 7, 8 and 9 will be taking place during the week beginning **Monday 6th June**, in normal classrooms.

Year 10 Work Experience

The organisation of this would normally take place much earlier on in the academic year, but uncertainty in relation to Covi-19 and possible restrictions has provided obvious challenges.

However, we are now in a position to be able to offer all Year 10 students the opportunity to have a Work Experience placement for up to 5 days, during the week beginning **Monday, 27th June**.

Miss Thomas is leading on this and further details will be with you shortly.

Parents' Progress Review Meetings with Achievement Mentors - Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

These will be taking place between **Monday 11th July – Friday 15th July** and we will liaise with you to arrange a convenient time for you to meet with your child's Achievement Mentor. End of year written reports will be available and this will be an excellent opportunity to discuss academic and other areas of progress.

Other dates for the summer term

May Bank Holiday

School will be closed on **Monday 2nd May**.

May Half Term

The May half-term holiday for students is from **Friday 27th May to Friday 3rd June**. Friday 27th May is a Teacher Training day for staff.

End of the summer term

The last day of term for students will be **Thursday 21st July**.

Year 11 leaving date

Across the country, the official school leaving date for Year 11 students is always the last Friday in June (this year – 24th June).

I am seeking clarification from Solihull LA in terms of summer 2022 expectations and I will let parents/carers know, once arrangements have been confirmed.

Finally, I would like to wish you and our students an enjoyable, restful, safe and healthy Easter break.

Yours faithfully

Miss E Clarke
Headteacher