



# TVA Matters

Issue 1-September 2009



## The New Start

We would like to begin this newsletter by emphasizing the excellent start made to the new term by the vast majority of our students. We welcome the feedback we received from the students in their first Friday Tutor Group sessions, which was mainly very positive and useful. There were obviously a range of opinions as they do not all like or want the same things. We are now working on some of the issues raised including:

**Lockers** - Locker keys have begun to be issued to all students. It has taken a long time because the keys have had to be sorted, divided and labelled. We then had to make sure that the location of the locker is convenient for the students and this has taken the most time. Apologies to all for the delay but we wanted to get it right before we went ahead. Once the keys have been issued they become the responsibility of the student and they will need to pay for any replacement keys.

**Mirrors** - these are on order for the toilets and will be installed as soon as possible.

## Lunchtimes

Again we are very pleased with the positive behaviour of the vast majority of our students. Overall their response to litter is excellent – keep it up! We are now working with a split lunch time, with years 7 and 8 having their lunch between 12.10 and 12.50, and years 9, 10 and 11 between 12.45 and 13.25. This means there are always students at work in the classrooms and the school building needs to be quiet at all times of the day. Unless the weather is bad, students should either be in the dining room for all hot meals, up in the Main Hall where they may eat sandwiches if they prefer it up there or outside. Students must have a note from a member of staff in order to be inside the building at lunchtimes.

The only external door to be used during the lunch time is the door directly opposite the ground floor toilets.

## Cashless Catering

We have been working very hard to get this up and running but the cards for this system have been delayed because ideally we wanted to have names and photos printed on them and the photographer was unable to come until 12<sup>th</sup> September. We then discovered that some cards had been printed without photos so we are attempting to remedy this problem before issuing them. If you have an objection to this please inform Mrs Pettit on 612411 before Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Students will also be given a TVA lanyard and 'buddy holder' so they can keep the card round their neck. It will be an integral part of the school uniform. Once they are issued the cards are the responsibility of the student and they must be particularly careful once they leave school as they could be identified by it. They will be advised to keep them out of sight. Please encourage that too.

If a card is lost, the student must inform the school office immediately so that their cash can be protected. The cost price to replace the card is £4.30. Once the system is up and running the student will register for lessons and collect their printed work using the card.

Further to this there has been a delay beyond our control with the installation of Broadband. This has not allowed us to set up the Parentpay system. Initially students will be able to load their card at one of two machines within the academy. Children entitled to Free School Meals will have theirs loaded for them.

## Dropping children off

At our recent governor's meeting parent governors asked for clarification about where parents/carers should drop their children at 8.15 and pick them up again at 14.45. We recently gave out passes to the vehicles that have permission to drive onto the site to bring children with a specific need. It is not possible for us to admit other vehicles as they cause a safety hazard for the students who walk in or use the cycle path. In the morning there is no problem if cars drive up to the roundabout near the gate and drop students there. Students arrive gradually and there is no blockage occurring. The

afternoon is more problematic as all the students leave at once so it would be better if students arranged to be picked up further away to avoid congestion with the buses.

## **Punctuality**

We have been tolerant up to now regarding punctuality as part of the settling in process, however it is very important that all students are in lesson 1 by 8.30 am, as key messages will be shared before this lesson. There will be sanctions for lateness eg students being kept back at breaks/lunch/after school!

In order to make sure students are in school for 8.30 am, they need to be at the entrance on Corringham Road for 8.20 am as it takes about seven minutes to walk from there!

Remember – there is a Breakfast Club available from 7.45 am onwards so there is no problem if students arrive early.

Again – well done to the vast majority of our students who are already getting this right.

## **After-School Activities**

We have arranged an exciting programme of after-school activities for this Autumn Term, and we are expecting students to commit to at least two after-school activities per week. Information, in the form of a leaflet, is now being printed and will be issued by Monday at the latest.

## **Academy Production**

Our first major production in the new school will be 'Dick Whittington and His Cat'. It will be staged between 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> December and 150 students from all year groups will be involved in the performances and also in preparing the facilities. There will be performances in the day for our primary partners and at night for families, friends, staff and governors.

## **Behaviour in community**

We have received some really positive comments from some members of the public regarding the good behaviour of the students, and that they are looking smart and mixing really well.

However, some students who are doing really well in school are letting themselves down outside of school, in particular on their journey to and from school. There have been some issues regarding safety (e.g. walking in road), some regarding respect for property (e.g. people's gardens / paths etc, and dropping litter). There is a particular issue regarding the route through Bracken Park, and I have asked the school governor and councillor to help us gather evidence here. We have been very proactive in making our expectations clear to students and the situation has improved a great deal. However we would be grateful if you would speak to your child/ren about respecting the areas through which they walk on the way to and from school. All students should know that schools have a legal right to impose sanctions for misbehaviour on the journey to and from school. I am asking for the vast majority of sensible students to help us here, to keep setting a good example and to remind others to do the same.

## **Swine Flu**

Any parent/carer who suspects that their child has the virus should follow national guidelines on medical procedures and keep the child at home.

## **Visitors**

In line with safeguarding legislation and good practice, it is essential that all visitors report to the Main Entrance (the red building).

## **Contacting us**

If you need to contact the school for any reason please use the contact details below and an appropriate person will be assigned to deal with your query.

**Trent Valley Academy, Sweyn Lane, Corringham Road, Gainsborough, Lincs., DN21 1QH**

**Phone: 01427 612411 E-mail: [Admin@trentva.org.uk](mailto:Admin@trentva.org.uk) Website: [www.trentva.org.uk](http://www.trentva.org.uk)**