



Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

# TUDOR TIMES

2022-23 Term: Autumn | Issue 1 | Date: September 2022

## Secondary Start of Year Newsletter

### Dear God,

you call us together at the beginning of this new school year.  
We ask you to send your spirit upon us that,  
as the days and terms unfold,  
we may be always mindful of your presence  
and alert to opportunities to see and serve you in those around us.  
We pray that we may teach well by the example of our own lives,  
by our knowledge and love of learning,  
by our gentleness and care of the pupils entrusted to us.  
In all that we do and say,  
we pray that, in building up the community of our school,  
we may contribute to the betterment of society  
and to the Kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
for your greater glory.  
Amen.

### The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On behalf of the community at Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, we wish to express our deep sadness of the death of Her Majesty the Queen. She was a model of goodness, dignity, and duty for all the years of her reign. We will always admire her deep sense of service and commitment but also her very evident love of the people she has served so generously these last 71 years. May she rest in peace.



*The school will be closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September to mark Her Majesty's state funeral.*

### The new school year

On behalf of the staff at Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, I am happy to welcome you to the 2022-23 school year. The start of a new academic year is always exciting. It's an opportunity for pupils to reconnect with friends, meet new members of staff and most importantly a chance to reflect on last year and decide how to approach the year ahead. Thank you to all the parents, particularly our new Year 7 parents, who supported a strong start of the new term.

### GCSE success

On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> August, we were delighted to celebrate with our Year 11 pupils on GCSE results day and we could not have been happier with the fine set of results our pupils achieved. Our pupils worked extremely hard over the last two years, and we feel very proud of their dedication, effort, and subsequent achievements. These results reflect the exceptional dedication, expertise and commitment of our staff and the significant

support provided by parents. The results are even more significant given the huge hardships the pupils had faced as a result of COVID.

Notable GCSE performances included:

- Alex Brinzoj, who achieved: 3 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s and a distinction
- Ameli Kulneva, who achieved: 2 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s and 1 grade 5
- Rizvan Hussain, who achieved: 1 grade 9, 1 grade 8, 1 grade 7, 3 grade 6s, 2 grade 5s and a distinction.



Overall, the school's GCSE performance continues to improve with 65% of our pupils achieving a grade 4 in English compared to 48% achieved in 2019 which is the last time pupils took a public examination. The proportion of pupils who achieved a grade 4 in mathematics increased from 49% to 54% between 2019 and 2022. Similarly, GCSE grades in Combined Science continue to improve with the proportion of pupils achieving a grade 4 increasing by 10% since 2019. We are particularly pleased with GCSE performances in Spanish, geography and sport studies. 70% of our pupils achieved a grade 4 or higher in Spanish with 23% achieving a grade 7 or higher. This year we have seen 53% of our pupils achieving a grade 4 or higher in geography, an increase of 23% from 2019. We are also very proud of the performance in sport studies with 80% achieving a grade 4 or higher.

It is particularly satisfying this year to see these excellent results for the school match the 'Good' Ofsted judgement we received in November last year. These results reflect the performance of a 'good' school, and we are very proud of these achievements. It was great to share the excitement with our pupils and we wish them continued success in their future studies and chosen career paths.

## **Breakfast club**

There is no doubt that families are under even more pressure financially as the impact of the cost-of-living increases continue. To support families, we offer a **free** breakfast for every child from 7.30am – 8.20am every morning. Pupils are given a healthy breakfast and have an opportunity to socialise with other pupils before the school day starts. Pupils do not need to sign up for this, they can just turn up.

## **The year ahead**

We want to ensure all pupils make the best of their time in school and apply themselves fully to their studies. As we move on and look to secure better outcomes for our pupils, we are looking forward to a productive partnership with you. This is vital for us to ensure our pupils can achieve their highest potential. Our pupils need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

1) Attends school **every day** and on time, ready for the day's learning experience

Being on time to school and lessons is an expectation. Missing important messages at the start of the day can have an impact on events and activities taking place and arriving late to lessons can disrupt the teaching and learning of others in the class. With this in mind, from **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**, any pupil arriving late to school will receive an after-school detention, for 45 minutes, on the same day. Lateness to lessons during the school day will be recorded and parents should note that pupils will receive a same-day 30-minute detention. We will review our approach to lateness on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Pupils must arrive to school by 8.20am so they are settled in their form classes for an 8.30am start.**

Excellent attendance at school is crucial if your child is to achieve their very best potential. If you are aware of any upcoming medical appointments, please ensure the school is informed in advance. Wherever possible, your child's education would benefit from such appointments being made outside of the school day. We do not authorise absence during the school term, unless in exceptional circumstances. I would therefore seek your full support in aiming for your child to have 100% attendance for the rest of this academic year. We have a strict safeguarding policy at the school; this includes ensuring that every pupil is accounted for at the start of the day and during lessons. As part of this process, you may receive a call from our college administration

team informing you that your child is not in school. It is therefore important that the school is informed of any absence prior to 8.30am. Please call the office on 0116 2780232, stating the reason for absence.

## 2) Wears the correct uniform and follows our policy on appearance

I have been very impressed by the high standards of school uniform this term and thank parents for their support and diligence in making sure their children have the correct uniform as well as equipment. A small number of pupils have needed to be reminded of our expectations and have been informed that all uniform standards will be checked on Monday mornings and any incorrect uniform will be sanctioned. Piercings of any kind are not permitted and unfortunately, we had to take time away from learning to deal with several concerns last week!

## 3) Has the correct equipment each day

All pupils are expected to come to school ready to learn every day. This means they must arrive with the equipment they need to be successful learners. This includes their school planner, stationery, PE kit and a school bag large enough to carry everything they need. Pupils who fail to meet these requirements will receive an appropriate sanction.

## 4) Is clear that mobile phones are not permitted in school and on the school site including before and after school.

Just a reminder that we operate a no mobile phone policy at school. Pupils must switch off all devices and are not permitted to use mobile phones to contact anyone during the school day. If a pupil is found to be accessing their phone whilst at school, it will be confiscated and returned only when they complete a same-day afterschool detention. Similarly, we ask that you do not contact your child during school hours. If there is an emergency, you can call the office on the number stated above.

Social media can sometimes have a detrimental effect on pupils both emotionally and academically. We want your child to attend school to learn and make the most of all of the wonderful opportunities available to them and I am certain you do not want social media to affect this experience.

**For all detentions, a reminder that these are compulsory when set and that we inform parents by email as well as the parent portal for information, not permission. All detentions must be served when set to avoid further and more serious consequences.**

### Upcoming events:

Dates for some of the events in school this term can be found below; please note further information will be shared about these nearer to the time of the event.

- Open Evening (Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 5:30pm) and Open Morning (Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September – 10am) – details can be found [here](#).
- Year 11 Welcome Evening – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September
- Year 7 Welcome Evening – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- Whole-school Awards Ceremony – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September – 5:30pm
- Careers Fair – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October
- Year 11 Parents' Evening – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Our Open Evening will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September where we welcome prospective pupils and their families. Our whole school awards ceremony will be held in the sports hall this year. Invitations to this event will be sent to parents and pupils this week.

If you do have any questions or concerns positive or negative, please do get in touch. Parental feedback is important to us. Families make an important contribution to their child's achievements at school and from my experience I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together.

I am looking forward to working with you all and am excited for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr A Bannon**  
Head of School



## Summer School

The Summer School was an invaluable experience for our children and our staff. During the first week of the summer holidays, Tudor Grange Samworth Academy opened our doors and welcomed our new year 7s, and some of our new GCSE cohort, back for one week of Summer School.

Pupils had the chance to participate in a range of enrichment activities, alongside one hour of English and one hour of Maths work each day. At the end of the week four pupils were selected and won an Amazon Kindle for their hard work in English and Maths throughout the week.



Pupils got to try their hand at archery and had a visit from Zoolab with their exotic animals. The children had the chance to see, hold and stroke a multitude of live animals, including a snake, a tarantula, a giant snail and a stick insect as they were taught about animal classification and food chains.



A circus workshop was also provided, with the children getting to try out different circus skills, and a falconry session during which the children had the opportunity to stroke an owl and have a bird of prey fly directly to their hand.



Our students broke pinatas filled with sweets in our Fiesta de Español (Spanish Party), cooked some Native American foods in Food Technology and looked at self-care ideas, getting a good night's sleep and circles of support during their Healthy Minds Workshop.



On the Friday, to celebrate the hard work of all our pupils, they were provided with a "Fun Day". Pupils painted African masks in the traditional style, made bookmarks and planted runner beans in pots to take home and grow over the summer. The children also had the chance to enjoy an "Inflatable Extravaganza Bonanza" on the field, with bouncy castles, sumo suits, assault courses, bungee runs, slides, a beat the buzzer and a rodeo bull set up.



It gave all our pupils the opportunity to access the curriculum a week early. It allowed our year 7s time to settle into secondary school without the pressures of a full building. It gave staff the chance to get to know the children that were transitioning into the school, and to begin to build positive relationships with them based on trust and mutual respect, alongside ensuring all students were ready for the beginning of term.