



Teddington School

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Dear Families

Welcome back. I hope you have all had a lovely half term break and that the back to school routine is not too difficult. It was lovely to greet Year 7 students this morning and feel the buzz of excitement that is always apparent after a holiday; I can hardly believe that we are already half way through their first year at Teddington School.

I would like to make you aware of some of the key foci for students in Year 7 this half term and beyond so that you have the opportunity to support in ensuring your child has the best chance of success.

- **Attitude to learning – Above & Beyond**
- **Literacy - Love of Reading**
- **Attendance & Punctuality**
- **Behaviour**
- **Extra-Curricular**

Attitude to learning – Above & Beyond – over the next half term we will be launching a Year 7 initiative that asks all students to aim “Above & Beyond” in lessons. Teachers will be looking for evidence that your child is attempting to try harder and do better. Now that students are familiar with the school and their new timetable, we want to ensure that they are all striving to achieve more. Students will be expected to manage this themselves, developing some of the Teddington School core values including “Endeavour”, “Responsibility” and “Integrity” which are essential to long term academic success. Students that demonstrate this in lessons will be rewarded with a specific “Above & Beyond” merit from their class teacher and at the end of the term those students who have achieved the most “Above & Beyond” merits will take part in a rewards outing.

Literacy - Love of Reading – Thursday 7 March is “World Book Day” we would like to use this day to launch our Year 7 reading challenge which will include: reading new books, discovering teachers’ favourite books, and reading with different ages (primary school and Sixth Form form). Further information on this will be sent home later this week.

Attendance & Punctuality – this remains a key focus as the evidence indicates that regular school attendance not only is one of the most significant factors for student success, but also it creates patterns and prepares students for sixth form, college, university, careers and life. Additionally, regular attendance at school can help young people to feel better about school and in turn about themselves. This half term our goal is for all students to achieve 100% attendance, students will spend time on Wednesday this week reflecting on their current attendance and setting themselves a personal goal. Your support with this is really





appreciated; if you would like any support with getting your child to come to school please feel free to contact myself or Ms Philips, Key Stage 3 Pastoral Manager.

Behaviour – Excellent behaviour is a key priority for us at Teddington and last half term I visited lots of lessons to look at student behaviour. In the majority of lessons it was pleasing to see that students were purposely engaged in learning and following the desired expectations. Many students in Year 7 consistently get it right every day as can be seen by the information in the table below. What I would like to focus on this half term is limiting the amount of low level disruption, linking this with the “Above & Beyond” initiative to ensure all students are challenging themselves in lessons. Another area of behaviour that we will be focusing on is positive relationships and appropriate language, particularly focusing on appropriate use of social media. Unfortunately during the last half term I have had to deal with a number of incidents of inappropriate conduct via social media. I would urge you, as a parent, to monitor your children’s use of social media. Many of the sites they are accessing have recommended age ranges of 13+ and they can be subjected to information and images that are not appropriate for their age range. Many useful tips can be found by visiting www.nationalonlinesaftey.com. Please attend the forthcoming E-Safety and Social Media talk this week on Wednesday at 6.00 pm. Please register to attend [here](#).

	Autumn Term 1 (6.5 weeks)	Autumn Term 2 (8 weeks)	Spring Term 1 (6 weeks)	September – to date (20.15 weeks)
Number of students who received no negative behaviour points	118	128	115	81

Extra-Curricular – I have been really pleased with the uptake of Year 7 students in extracurricular clubs including Robotics, Trampolining, House Drama, Warhammer and Football and more. It is a really good way for students to positively engage in the life of the school and get to know peers from outside of their teaching groups and their year group. Now that the evenings are getting lighter it would be nice to see more of the year group getting involved. If any families have an idea for a club, please come and see me as I am keen to try new opportunities in the summer term. Many of the year group are taking part in the Year 7 Performing Showcase. This will take place on Wednesday 3 April from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. I hope to see many of you there Further details will follow later this term.

Finally I would like to remind you of some key dates specific to Year 7. The spring rewards event for those students with 100% attendance and no negatives behaviour points will take place on Tuesday 2 April and the Year 7 subject consultation evening will take place on Wednesday 24 April between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

Yours faithfully

Ms S Thornley
Head of Year 7