



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

How we will ensure your child achieves outstanding results

8th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The new Year 11 have had a fantastic first week back. Their attitude to learning, attendance and uniform have been exemplary. Can I thank you all for your support in helping this happen.

As I'm sure you are aware, our Year 11 results in the summer were outstanding. They were the best in the area and as things currently stand, the progress of our students is in the **top 10% of schools across the country**. This was a result of all members of TeamTanfield coming together and playing their part.

All of our students follow the full range of New Specification qualifications across the curriculum. These qualifications demand a great deal of knowledge and a high level of understanding. Thorough preparation for the large number of examinations students must sit during May and June 2025 is essential. It is vitally important that students prepare well to avoid stress and worry in this key academic year. To avoid this our motto is 'little and often' and it starts now.

As we know, GCSE and equivalent examination courses are extremely important. Many students who underachieve in key curriculum areas at school have to spend time in college continuing to study and then re-sitting important qualifications to try and improve their grades. This can be essential to ensure students can access the courses of their choice and get the job they dream of when they enter the world of work. We don't set target grades for our students as we feel that it limits their potential. We ask that every student gives 100% effort 100% of the time and aim for grade 9s. Regardless of the minimum grades colleges and apprenticeships require to gain entry to their courses, the higher GCSE grades a student gains, the more choices they have in their career.

On the day they collected their results, we asked our year 11s what things made the biggest impact on their results and every student said that **"Get Exam Ready", "Champions Hour" "working lunch" and "revision at home using the revision hub"** were key to their success.

"Get Exam Ready" is a comprehensive after school study programme which we expect all students to attend. After the completion of lessons at 3.10 pm, all students complete 50 minutes of revision in a key GCSE subject area. The timetable of after school support covers all areas of the curriculum. This ensures all students are supported with over 200 hours of revision as we prepare for examination success. This is our minimum expectation and it really helped our students achieve success. Hard work and thorough preparation really did make a huge difference.

TANFIELD SCHOOL
HEADTEACHER Steven Clough BSc (Hons) NPQH

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We also have our voluntary **“working lunch”**, which runs during lunchtime and **“Champions hour”**, which runs from 4-5pm. This is an opportunity for students to study independently in a computer room, supervised by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This is particularly beneficial for those students who struggle to work at home, have noisy siblings who may distract them, or have a lack of access to IT.

In addition to **“Get Exam Ready”** and the **“Champions hour”** support, we also expect students to revise and prepare for examinations independently at home. This is essential if students are to achieve higher grades. **We expect all students to complete their SparxMaths tasks each night and to complete their daily goals on Tassomai for Science, English, Geography and/or History.** There was a direct correlation between the grades achieved by students and the amount of questions they answered on Tassomai and SparxMaths.

Students will be doing fortnightly **“Progress Checks”**. These are small tests that are made up of past exam questions designed to test their learning from the previous two weeks. Your child will be given a copy of the test two weeks before they have to sit it. We want students to prepare answers to the questions. If they cannot answer a question, they are able to ask their teacher before the day of the test. As students have seen the test and had a chance to prepare for it prior to sitting the test we expect students to get at least 80%.

All subject areas offer study support materials, for revision at home, through our revision site: <https://sites.google.com/tanfieldschool.co.uk/how-to-revise/home> and we also organise timetabled subject support during holiday weeks. When necessary, timetabled revision sessions will be sent to you for the October, February, Easter and May holidays. Attendance at these key sessions is expected and will determine the level of success your child achieves.

As I stated earlier, **hard work and thorough preparation do make a difference.** In addition to the vital exam revision and study support it is essential that students have a very good attendance to lessons. Students **should not take holidays away from school** at any point during year 11. It is essential that during May week of year 11 all students are preparing for examinations. We do not have a date for the final exam yet but last year the contingency day was at the end of June. Therefore, can we please ask you not to book any holidays until July at the earliest. If in doubt, please get in touch.

There will be an information session for parents and carers on Wednesday 18th September 2024, 5pm-6pm, at Tanfield School covering revision and homework.

Yours faithfully,

Steven Clough
Headteacher

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