

# Welcome to Thomas Deacon Academy

## Year 10 Parent Information Evening

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September

**Mrs Jenny Brassington**  
Vice Principal – Standards  
and Outcomes



# Who am I and why am I here?

## **Mrs Brassington**

Vice Principal

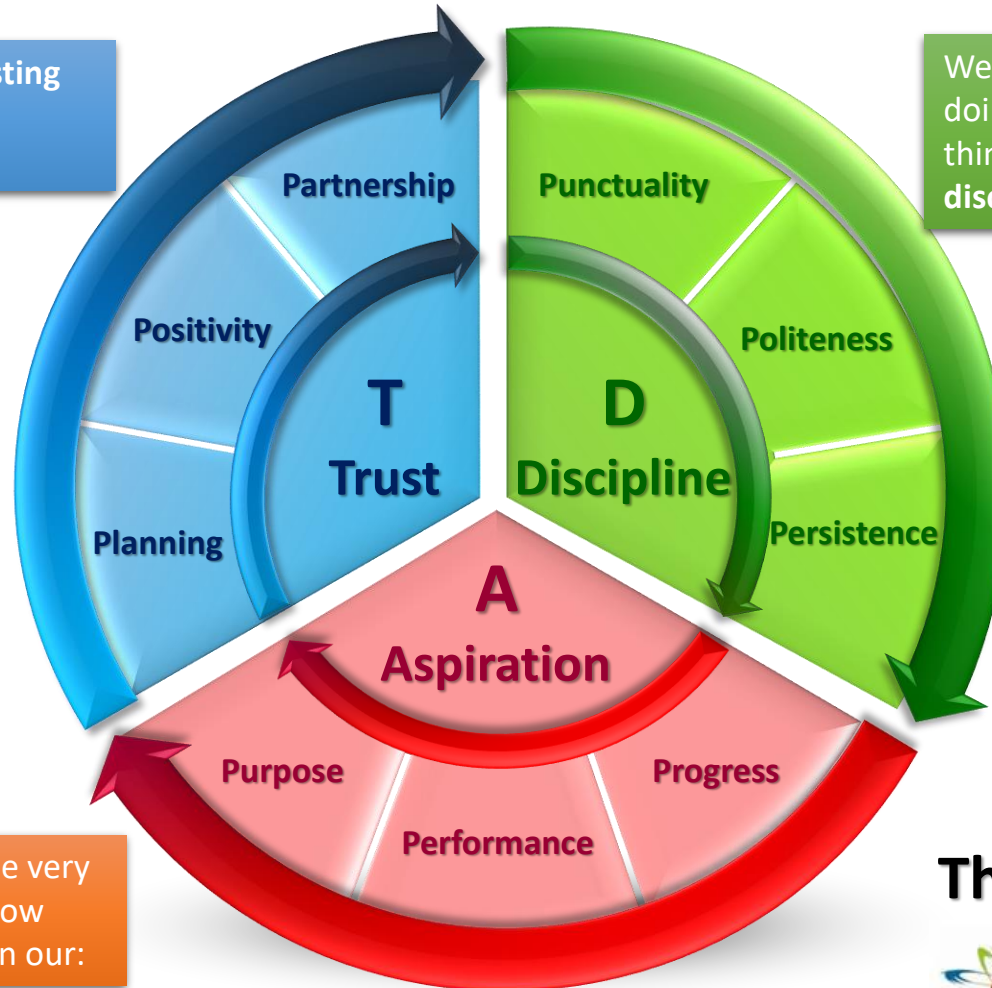
My job to support students to meet or exceed their target grades.



# Our values

## Values

We model **trusting** relationships through our:



We never give up doing the right thing and are **disciplined** in our:

We want the very best and show **aspiration** in our:

**The TDA Way**



# Our expectations

## TRUST:

Planning – equipped for learning

Positivity – trying really hard in all lessons, working hard

Partnership – positive relationships with staff and other students

## DISCIPLINE:

Punctuality – arriving to school and lessons on time, meeting homework deadlines.

Politeness – courteous and respectful to all

Persistence – keeping going when work is tough, responding positively to feedback.

## ASPIRATION:

Progress, performance, purpose - working to the best of your ability, always looking to achieve the highest possible marks and showing determination to succeed.



# Our expectations

## TDA Classroom – 100% expectations



### SEATING PLANS

Every teacher will have a seating plan for you so that you can focus on learning.

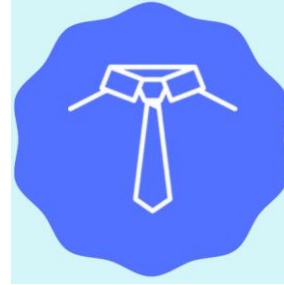


### EQUIPMENT

At the start of every lesson you should take out:

- Exercise book
- Blue/black pen
- Purple pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- \*Calculator

\*if required



### END OF LESSON

At the end of every lesson, you should ensure that you have your **ties and blazers on** and your **shirt tucked in**. You should then **stand by your chairs** until dismissed.

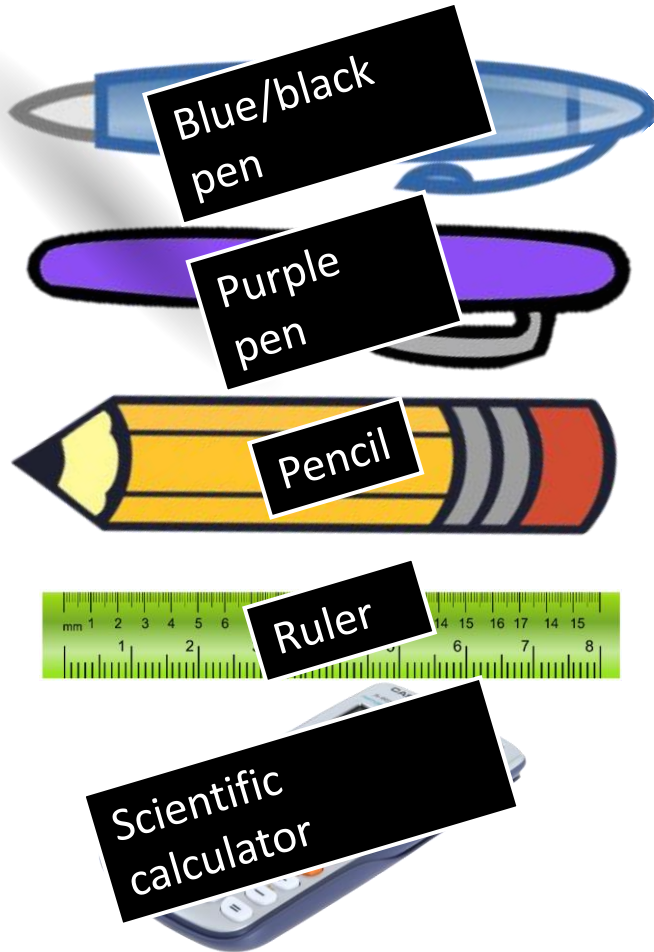


### MOBILE TECH

If you have a mobile phone, headphones or any other device with you, they should be **switched off** and **in bags** throughout the school day.

# Our expectations

## TDA 100% equipment challenge

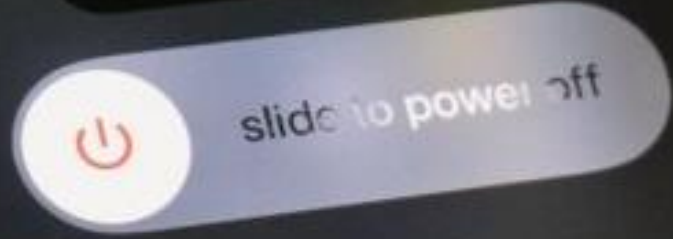


Your form tutor will be doing a regular equipment check to ensure you are ready to learn.

Every week, we will publish the names of tutor groups who have 100% of students with 100% equipment.

There will be prizes for the best performing tutor groups and the best performing house.

Help your tutor group get on the hall of fame by making sure you have 100% equipment every day.



The Big Switch Off  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September



# The Big Switch Off

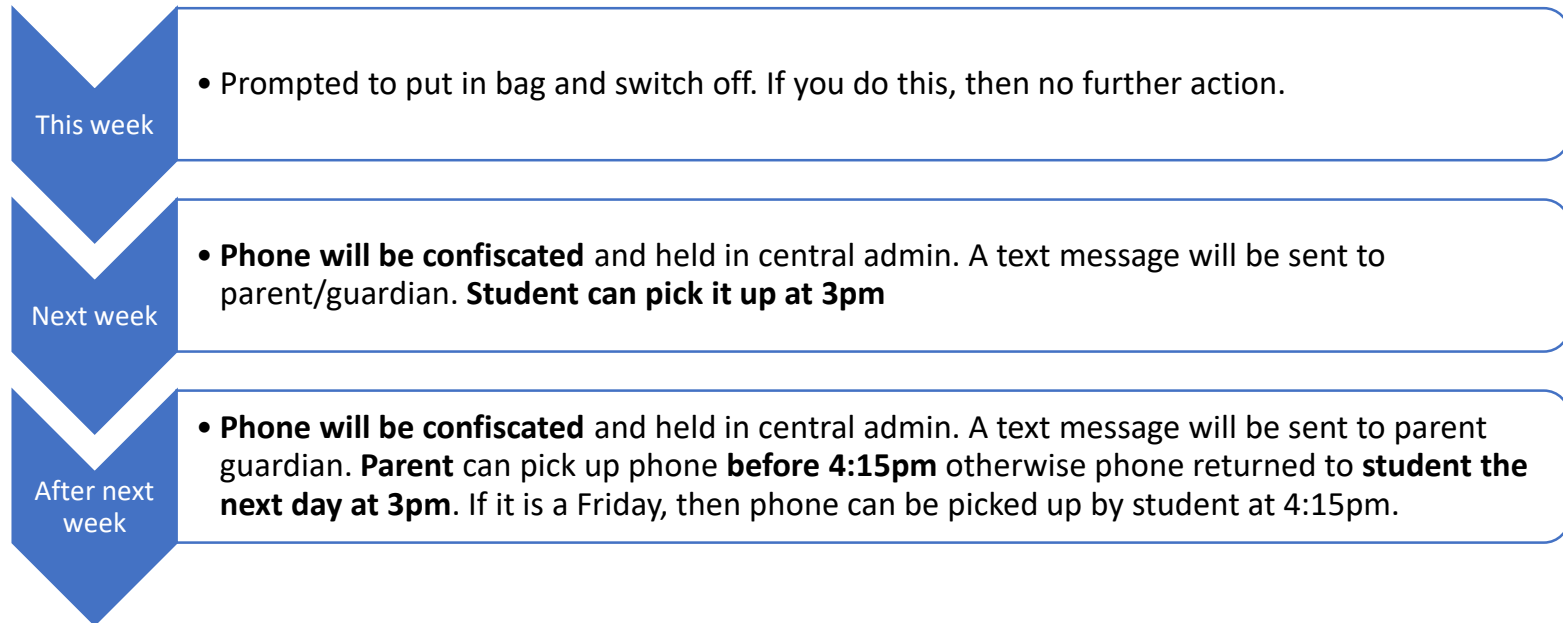


- As you know, the use of mobile devices and personal headphones are no longer permitted at TDA.
- The purpose of this is to:
  - help you concentrate better in lessons
  - enable you to communicate better with one another around the academy
  - help you use mobile technology in a safe, healthy and considered way
- We recommend that you do not bring devices into school with you. If you need to, then they need to be switched off and in your bag **before** you enter the building.
- Phones/tablets/headphones should not be seen during the school day under any circumstances.



# How will we support you?

In order to be fair in supporting you with this change, the following will happen if you are found with a phone by **any** member of staff:



All staff have been directed to confiscate mobile phones if they are seen or heard without any exceptions.

# Your child's GCSE Courses



# Achievement – GCSEs have changed

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

**GOOD PASS (DfE)**  
5 and above = top of C and above

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

No longer grades – numbers from 1-9

9 is the top grade



# GCSE Courses

- GCSE grades go from 1-9; where 9 is the TOP grade.
- The way that grades are awarded has also changed – there are no clear grade boundaries – these will be determined each year based on student marks.
- So GCSEs are a competition – the students with the best marks get the best grades BUT roughly the same number of grades will be awarded each year.
- As marks get higher – grade boundaries are likely to get higher – so you have to be your best.
- The better grades students get, the more likely they are to get onto their choice of post-16 course; the more likely they will go to university and the better (and better paid) job they will get.

# GCSE Courses

- All students are taking THREE optional subjects.
- They will also all be studying for Maths GCSE, English Language and English Literature GCSE.
- They will either be studying for triple sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) or Trilogy (the new name for double award.)

# Achievement – being successful

- All students will have a **TARGET** grade for GCSE examinations.
- This is based on their KS2 SATs results **AND** what progress we would expect them to make during their 5 years at Thomas Deacon (linked to national data).
- GCSEs are now graded from 1-9 (numbers not letters) and 9 is the **TOP** grade.
- All students in Year 10 need to know their target and do their very best to achieve that in all of their work.



# Achievement

- In all subjects students will have regular tests and regular homework.
- Students will receive have Checkpoint reports three times this year.
- These will help you to see how your child is performing relative to their target grade.
- The progress will be monitored and children supported to meet their target grade.



# Achievement – key dates

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Parent-Tutor Evening

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Checkpoint 1 reports released

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

Parent-teacher consultation

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

Checkpoint 2 reports released

w.c. 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (two weeks)

Year 10 Examinations

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Checkpoint 3 reports released

TBC

Year 10/11 Parent-teacher consultation





# Attendance



**Miss Giaquinto**  
**Vice Principal Wellbeing**

Do you know what your child's attendance % is?

100%....80%?

Do you know what it means?

?



# National Attendance 95%

This is Simon, he is in Year 7 and has 90% attendance.

Is this good? What does it mean?



**1 school year** at **90%** attendance  
= **4** whole weeks of lessons **MISSED!**



# Let's look a little closer

- **90%** attendance over **5** years of secondary school....  
=  $\frac{1}{2}$  a school **year missed!**
- **80%** attendance over **5** years of secondary school....  
= **1 school year missed!**



What does this mean for Simon's GCSE's?

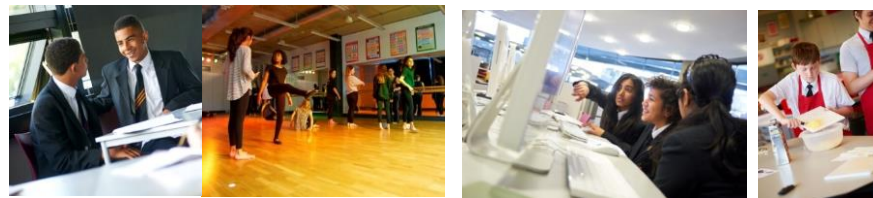


Trust | Discipline | Aspiration

Research suggests that:

**17 missed school days** a year  
= **1** GCSE grade **DROP** in achievement. (DfES)

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.



# Absence protocols

- Always call in on the first day of absence before **9.00am**
- If they have been signed off by a Doctor there is no need to ring in every day
- However if not and you have not stated or it is not clear how long they will be off then you must ring in **before 9.00am.**



## Assessment in lessons

Your child's teachers will use a range of methods to assess in lessons. This is so that they can adapt their teaching and be able to provide feedback if required. Here are some of the ways in which teachers may assess a child's work:

- Reading the work in exercise books
- Exit tickets – questions to answer at end of a lesson
- Using mini-whiteboards
- Using cold-call questioning (no hand up)
- Using low-stakes quizzes
- Using two-minute essays



## Feedback

Based on the teachers' assessments, they may provide students with feedback to help them improve their work. This feedback may happen in a variety of ways such as:

- Verbal - either in a small group or one-one
- Whole-class – feedback to inform everyone at the same time
- Written – could involve feedback codes or other and be written in your books

The target for the teacher is to always find the most efficient and effective method of communicating feedback so that students are able to improve their understanding and/or their work.

# Assessment and Feedback

## Feedback Improvement Time (FIT)

After a teacher has provided feedback, any improvements students make should be completed using **purple pen**. This is so we can track the improvements in books.

Teachers may set a FIT task which will give students the opportunity to demonstrate any improvement in understanding. This should also be completed in a **purple pen**.

All students have received a **purple pen** and it is their responsibility to look after it; if lost a replacement should be bought from the school shop.

# English and Maths

**Mrs Rouse  
Head of  
Department for  
English**

**Mrs Hardy  
Head of  
Department for  
Maths**

**Mrs Mackrell-Hey  
Subject Leader for  
Chemistry**

# How can I help my child?

## HOMework

In Year 10 students will receive approximately 1 hour homework per week (minimum) from each of their subjects each week.

This can all be checked on Show My Homework.

If students are not set specific homework they should be encouraged to complete some revision of work already completed – using web resources, using PLCs that can be found in books and key words lists.

# Exams this year – Year 10

Year 10 examinations will begin on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June

They will have exams in all of their subjects.

Exams will take place in formal exam conditions and in formal exam locations.

It will be really important for students to be prepared for these examinations – they provide a good opportunity to develop their revision skills and to embed their learning.



# How can I help my child?

## REVISION

The TDA Revision Support Website

<http://www.thomasdeaconacademy.com/page/?title=Revision+Support&pid=215>

Use of subject Apps and websites:

PiXL Maths App

PiXL Lit App

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/support>

Revision needs to focus on the students' WEAK areas – so list the parts of a subject that they struggle with.

# How can I help my child? REVISION

Is it possible to provide them with a quiet area to work – no TV?

Encourage students to put away all electronic devices. (Some revision work can be done electronically but most still needs to be done on paper.)

Provide paper, pens, highlighters etc. They can get all of this from the school shop if required.

Be really positive before an exam.

You can help by just being there. Asking questions. Helping them with the details.

# How can I help my child? REVISION STRATEGIES

Don't just read the pieces of information – do something with it.

Students could – make a mind map, create some revision cards, write out the notes.

Use the memory clock to structure revision.

There will be revision support provided in PD lessons and Tutor Times prior to examinations.



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# Training

You will not get to the top without training

- Your lessons
- Your homework
- Quality revision – throughout your GCSEs
- Practice exam papers
- Attendance at revision and intervention sessions
- 100% - we are a 100% Academy

“It is only by starting at an unusually young age and by practicing with such ferocious devotion that it is possible to accumulate ten thousand hours while still in adolescence. Far from being an exception to the ten-thousand-hour rule, Mozart is a shining testament to it.”

— [Matthew Syed, Bounce: Mozart, Federer, Picasso, Beckham, and the Science of Success](#)

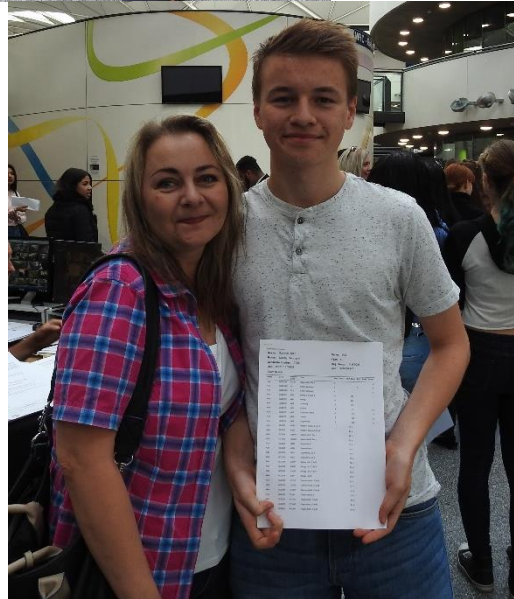
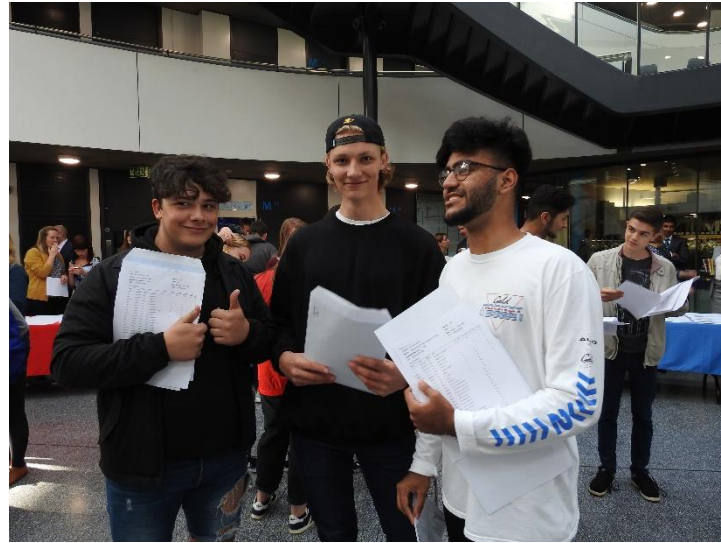


I have lost count of the times I had to tell him (Jonny Wilkinson) to stop practising and come inside when we were together at Newcastle. And then when he wasn't practising kicking he was talking about it.

Steve Bates, rugby coach (Newcastle) and former PE teacher.



# Winners



# Focus on your target



**AND WIN**