



High Tunstall College of Science

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Headteacher: Mark R Tilling

Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As the 2020-21 Academic Year draws to an end, I would like to thank all students, parents/carers and staff at High Tunstall College of Science for their forbearance with the issues we have faced throughout the year. It is sad to be ending the term with many of our students forced to work online from home, whilst others have been released to enjoy the freedoms of a relatively normal life. I would like to welcome our new students and their families to the College and I am excited to start their five-year education journey with us.

At times it seems we face the most ridiculous issues, who would have thought that the opening of our new 3G facility would be delayed by faulty blue paint. We are hoping that once this is rectified, we will be able to operate as planned and have the facility open to the community during the Summer months.

July is the month we see a number of staff leave us for pastures new, the Governors and I would like to wish the very best to Mrs Martin, Mrs Liston, Mr Aves, Mr Heathcote, Mr Gray, Ms Husby, Ms Hodgson and Mr Emmerson. Thank you all for your service and dedication to the students of High Tunstall College of Science. Please be assured that all posts are filled ready for us to welcome students back and continue our development in September 2021.

Over the summer months we are holding two weeks of Summer Holiday School for our incoming Year 7 students. We have 284 students joining us in September meaning in the new academic year High Tunstall College of Science is full.

At this moment, we are unsure what the situation will be in September but know that we are once again being asked to open the College early to test students before they return to college after the summer break. Our intention is to carry out one test in the last week of the holidays and the second test on the day the students return.

Testing details and return to College dates for students will be as follows (further details, including specific timings to follow):

- **Thursday 2nd September** – Year 7 and 11 – Test 1 (Attend College to test then return home)
- **Friday 3rd September** – Year 8, 9 and 10 – Test 1 (Attend College to test then return home)
- **Monday 6th September** – Year 7 and 11 return to College and will complete Test 2 on site during the course of the day
- **Tuesday 7th September** – Year 8, 9 and 10 return to College and will complete Test 2 on site during the course of the day

We understand home testing will need to continue until the end of September when the government will carry out a review. If any of our current students are coming into College during the summer we would request they continue twice weekly testing. If students require an updated supply of home test kits to do this, please ask for these at Reception. Please remember that you can still access lateral flow tests for free if you would like your child to keep testing over the holidays.

Apart from testing, we have been informed to remove all other restrictions in schools from September. To reassure parents/carers, as a college we will continue to operate as we have over the previous months as we believe it is delivering high quality education for all. Split break and lunch times will remain as they are far more effective than before and with the wider facilities now open around site, it allows students to get outside and relax. We have contingency plans in place in case of last minute government guidance changes.

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As you will be aware we had our Section 8 inspection carried out by Ofsted at the beginning of July. The inspection letter will not be published before the end of term and therefore will be published in September. There is nothing unusual about this and we will publish this to you once the inspectorate makes it available to us. I would like to thank all staff, students and parents/carers who fed information into the inspection team - it all helps!

Staff officially return to College on Friday 3rd September, where we will be holding a professional development day in preparation for the new academic year. We will be operating a staggered start to the term to incorporate the aforementioned tests and therefore, students in **Year 7 and 11** are expected to return on **Monday 6th September** and **Years 8, 9 and 10** return on **Tuesday 7th September at 8.35am for an 8.40 start**. All year groups apart from Year 7 should make their way to their form rooms on the day of their return and Year 7 will be greeted in the Year 7 yard at the front of the North Building by their tutors. An update letter will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

This summer holiday is a long break and we hope students will continue to keep their minds active by reading and engaging in activities online. There are lots of resources and books available through MyON, our online reading cloud and all work from lessons is still available on Teams.

We are hoping for a much more productive and less disruptive academic year in 2021/22. There are many exciting activities being organised to widen the minds and experiences of all at the College. From the STEM Lecture of Chris Packham to trips to London and beyond, my staff are committed to widening the opportunities of all. If your son/daughter engages they have the opportunity to achieve all our promises as part of the Tunstall Ticket.

It is important that we continue to maintain our standards. Please remember that equipment needs to be provided to learn in the classroom as well as outside the classroom in PE. Details of the equipment and uniform students require can be found on the college website. Please take care when considering the purchase of footwear this summer as when we return black shoes must be worn. We have been tolerant over the past few months however this must be corrected for September. Suitable footwear for the 3g pitch is also required for September if students want to be able to access it. We ask that students keep hold of their lanyards over the summer holidays as all students is will remain a requirement to wear them on their return in September.

As I reflect on the end of my eleventh year as Headteacher at High Tunstall I must confess to being blown away by the commitment, support and energy of all connected with the College. I am very proud of what we have built and the education we are delivering here at the College and I know from the messages you send me and the feedback to Ofsted, you are too. Students at High Tunstall deserve the very best in education and when they return in September we will continue to deliver high quality teaching to all and continue to be the inclusive school of Hartlepool.

Thank you for your support, the term ends on Friday 16th July at 2.00pm and we look forward to seeing all students return week beginning 6th September 2021. We will of course be sending out the parent planner and college calendar with further information before our students return to us in September.

Have a safe, restful and peaceful summer break and I look forward to welcoming you all back to another exciting year at High Tunstall.

Stay safe!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Tilling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M R Tilling
Headteacher