



# High Tunstall College of Science

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**Headteacher: Mark R Tilling**

**Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens**

April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the spring term and look forward to the start of the new summer term, I would like to thank you for your continued support over the last few months in keeping up the standards we expect here at High Tunstall.

It has been a very tough term, Covid-19 rates have soared, and as the restrictions have been lifted we have to come to terms with living with this disease. From 4<sup>th</sup> April, updated guidance from the DfE advises people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

It has been a difficult term, at times we had over 20% of the College community off with Covid related absences, that is both staff and students. I cannot thank everyone enough for supporting us through these difficult days. The new guidance is clear and unambiguous, adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days. Please continue to notify the College of any positive cases so we can advise further, as needed.

On return to college after a positive case, we would recommend continuing to wearing a face covering when social distancing is difficult in order to help protect the College community for a few days. Please be advised that we are no longer able to hand out any Covid test kits from April 1<sup>st</sup>, as per DfE guidance. We ask you all to continue to support us in our endeavours to always keep High Tunstall open.

This term saw the return of "Creative Arts Academy" and the first big musical in our fantastic new building. The School of Rock was a tremendous success with a packed audience of students, parents, and staff. I was emotional on the last night as the fruition of two years hard work by a variety of students had finally come together. Last week we saw the practice expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, though curtailed by the wintry snowy weather I am sure that the students are ready and raring to go for their qualifying event, just another of the fantastic extra-curricular activities on offer to students.

Sport continues to play a major strength in our extra-curricular offer and our breadth of sporting participation amazes me. We have teams in Rugby, Handball, Netball, Football, Cricket, Athletics and Badminton with plans afoot to broaden our extra-curricular offer in the near future. We had National quarter-finalists in our U16 Netball team, regional champions in Handball and numerous teams competing strongly in national competitions in football. Looking forward to the Summer, Cricket and Athletics seasons start very soon with ambitions to once again cement our status as a real force in school sport in the North East. As a college we believe sport is for all and we encourage all students to participate within both curricular and extra-curricular sport and physical activity. Our extra-curricular programme is open to all and we look forward to welcoming your son/daughter to a sporting club during the Summer Term.

After a well-earned break for Easter we return to the first summer examination series in the new building. It is important that all students understand that these periods are crucial for all if we want high outcomes and great performance. Year 10 start their examinations in the first week back followed by the Year 11 GCSE examinations and I wish all the students the very best of luck. I know that if you have put the work in, if you have endeavoured to close those gaps so many talk about then you will be a great success.

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We would like to remind parents/carers that all the standards we have set need to be maintained and supported. Students must be in full uniform at all times, this includes that coats and bags (if not being used) should be placed in lockers. Mobile phones must be kept in lockers at all times. Heads of Year and Student Support Officers will be contacting parents where this is not happening. Over the past year we have seen a slippage of standard in footwear. Whilst in a pandemic we understand finances have been tight we are insisting on black shoes only as per our college policy. Standards of dress are important as that means we are ready to learn and develop as mature young adults.

We received our 2022 intake allocations from Hartlepool Borough Council following the 2022/23 admissions round. I am extremely proud to say that as a college we are full in key stage 3 and 4 for the new academic year. Over 300 young people wanted to come to High Tunstall as their first school of choice, we have worked so hard to get to where we are and now we want to continue to drive our standards upwards.

April will see a couple of changes in our staffing as we say goodbye to a long serving colleague who has decided to move on to pastures new. Mrs Wake who has worked at the College since May 2005, firstly in the main office and latterly in student support. We wish her well for the future.

Mrs Wakes leaving coincides with the annual transition time for Year 7 into Year 8. Mr Blythe will be the new Year Leader in June when Mrs Dunlop starts her work with the new Year 7 and their transition to High Tunstall. From April 25<sup>th</sup> Mrs Tate, Student Support Officer for Year 11 will support Mrs Dunlop as we work towards the transition dates. Therefore, if parents have any queries regarding Year 7 from Easter they should contact either Mrs Dunlop or Mrs Tate.

We will not change our philosophy, being ready, respectful, and safe at all times is immensely important to all at the College and the support of students and parents in this is essential. We now have the inspirational buildings, the fantastic staff and students that inspire me so much. Our support mechanisms cannot be matched by anyone in Hartlepool, I am so proud of the attendance rates of all students. Keep on engaging, working hard, be challenged by the work we do, and I am sure the outcomes for all will match this hard work.

The term ends on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022**, students return to college on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 8.35am for a 8.40am start.**

Thank you for your support this term, keep safe and enjoy the family time.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Mark Tilling**  
**Headteacher**