

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the academic year, I write to thank you for your support. It has been a really challenging yet rewarding time and it has probably been the most 'normal' school year that we have had since 2019!

Thanks must also go to our students and staff. Tottington is a very special school and this is down to the people that fill it every day. The very vast majority of students have demonstrated high levels of learning; strong attendance; positive attitudes and sincere thanks go to these students from all of us. My personal thanks go to our staff who go that extra mile every single day. The talent and effort that is shown is truly appreciated.

This letter will serve to demonstrate some of the many wonderful things that have been happening over the term. Hopefully, it will give you a flavour of Tottington! Reminders about our school return, timings of the day, uniform and equipment and other key information will be shared over the summer by my colleagues at various points.

Transition

We have built some fantastic links with our primary and tertiary colleagues over the past year. Our key stage four students have benefited from assemblies and events courtesy of the local colleges, including Bury College and Holy Cross and they have also had the skilled input of Mr Welch our careers advisor.

Primary students have enjoyed links with our school and we have visited many of our primaries regularly to build those relationships. Our recent transition day and parents' evening at the end of June were really successful. The children enjoyed a range of taster lessons and activities and every parent had the opportunity to meet key staff at our induction evening. Thank you to Mrs McCool and Mr Healey for leading on this. Thank you, also, to our Primary schools for being so accommodating.

In addition, Ms Freebairn has been forging links with Walshaw primary school over the past year, delivering languages in their school. This has been a wonderful chance for us to engage with the school and also to develop our own skills. Thank you to Ms Freebairn for leading on this initiative.

Cultural day



Mr Lam introduced a cultural day at Tottington this year and it was hugely popular and very successful. Students from our 'Culture Club' worked together to help Mr Lam plan the day and we were delighted to welcome visitors to our school to share cultural activities with students. The dining hall offered a range of world cuisine and many students came in their cultural dress. It was a fantastic event and it is one that we will repeat annually. Special thanks go to Christine and Wai Ling from the Wai Yin Chinese Society in Manchester.





Rainbow Award – Gold

Mrs Dawson and Mrs McCool have worked together to introduce 'The Rainbow Flag award' for positive LGBT inclusion and visibility. We have earned all strands of the award including: inclusive parents and governors; inclusive curriculum; inclusive pastoral; effective policies; skilled teacher and student voice. This award recognises our appreciation and respect for diversity and inclusion and it is particularly focused on our LGBTQ+ community. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud to call ourselves a gold standard school.

School trips and cultural capital

Lifting of the final Covid restrictions has enabled a real surge in the planning and delivery of trips. These are vital in providing our students with a well-rounded education. The last three months have included a visit to see the work of a local artist for Culture Day, sports leaders running a table tennis tournament for primary school students, an incredibly successful inter-schools athletics competition, a Blackpool Pleasure Beach trip to celebrate the participation in our girls' football teams, a visit to Holy Cross College, the Geography field work trip to Salford Quays and finally our attendance to the final session of the Barclay's Life Skills programme.



Future trips include a visit to Cern to see the Hadron collider, run by our Science team, a trip to Barcelona to celebrate football and Spanish culture and - finally - a trip to London organised jointly by English and History departments.

The desire of our teachers to plan these experiences for the benefit of our pupils means that the future of out of school opportunities looks very bright indeed.



New website

Please take a look at our amazing new website. It is full of really useful information and it also contains some of our social media posts. It has been completely redesigned and thanks go to Ms Postle for leading on this.

New site improvements

This term, we have been able to refit two of our science labs as part of a programme to improve the science facilities. They are clean, bright, professional and functional and the students love them!

We have completed the refit of internal fire doors and windows are being replaced to ensure that the site looks the best that it can. Thanks go to Mr Stretton, Mr Potts, Mr Kershaw and the team for ensuring that our site continues to improve and develop.

We have external dining pods being installed in September on the North Yard so that students can have a wider range of 'grab and go' food. There will be four hatches, all serving different meals and we know that this will really improve our offer and our delivery for students.

Over the summer, the main reception will be refurbished, alongside the front exterior of the reception area. This will create more visitor parking, more disabled parking and more staff parking. Interior wise, we will have a bigger reception area and a dedicated parent meeting room with visitor toilet. We are really excited about this as we know it will really improve the look of our front of school.



Fire service visits

Thanks go to the Ramsbottom fire station crew for engaging with us this academic year. We have built some great links with the staff there and students have enjoyed assemblies in school on the fire service and its leadership of LGBTQ+. This link is something we aim to foster.

Park mural

Mr Coogan was able to take over a hundred students to visit the local park mural, designed and created Manchester street artists, Kelzo and Evan Barlow



Parent meetings

In September, we will be holding our first annual set of Parent 'Welcome Back' Meetings. Each evening we will hold a parent information session from 6pm – 7pm in the main hall. Meetings will be led by the head of year and information relevant to each year group will be shared. You will also have the chance to meet with your child's form tutor to have individual discussions.

Monday 5th September - Year 11

Tuesday 6th September - Year 10

Wednesday 7th September - Year 9

Thursday 8th September - Year 8

At the end of this academic year, we say farewell and thank you to the following staff:

Mrs A Ahmed - English

Ms K Arnold – Head of English

Mrs P Evans – Geography/PE

Mrs J Foster – Assistant Headteacher

Mr M Gavin – Head of Drama

Mr D Healey – PE

Mrs R O’Driscoll – Head of Year

Mrs R Redmond – Technology and Head of Year

Mrs S Taylor - Technology

Mrs J Waldron – Second in English



In September, we welcome the following staff to our school:

Mrs K Adams – English and literacy across the school

Mrs R Barnes – Head of English

Ms O Chester - English

Mr C Eldridge – ICT technician

Ms J Fitzpatrick - English

Mr J Hargraves - Geography

Ms L Kirkbride - Maths

Mrs L Robson – Head of RE

Mrs A Stretton – Teaching assistant

Mr S Tait – Drama



Thank you

We say thank you to Mr Wain and Mrs McDermott in The Platform for their support and contribution to our school this year. It is much appreciated!

Support for students

Our SEN team has continued to work hard to increase our offer for our young people.

We have been able to widen our provision with the advent of Thrive and we have also engaged with professionals and parents to ensure that we meet the needs of individual students.

Summer School



On 24th and 25th August, we plan to run a two day summer school for our year 6 to year 7 students.

Following on from the amazing success last year, we have responded to parent requests by organising our own, self-funded mini Summer School to enable our young joiners to gain confidence so they make the transition from Primary to Secondary school. Thanks go to the team of staff for participating in this.

It would not be right for me to conclude my letter without making specific reference, again, to two very highly regarded, loved and respected colleagues – Mrs Lord and Mrs Ashburner. We are all acutely aware that we were devastated to lose our two colleagues in very tragic circumstances this academic year. Once again, our thoughts and kind wishes go to the families of Carol and Morar. There is a wooden bench in our North Yard garden area to remember Carol and we have ordered one for Morar, too. In addition, we were proud to be able to present Bleakholt Animal Charity in Ramsbottom with a cheque for £300 in memory of Morar. Thank you to everyone for contributing and thank you to Mrs Standring for presenting the money to the charity.

On a final note, I would like to let you know that I shall be leaving Tottington High in the Autumn term. I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with the wonderful students and staff of this school for over two and a half years and, together, we have worked through many challenging situations. Despite this, we have made amazing progress as a shared community, and our school has so much potential for the future.

Tottington is a vibrant, diverse and unique place and the passion that parents and staff have for the children is tangible. I know that it will carry on its journey to outstanding, and that it will become the school of choice for all local young people.

I should like to thank the Shaw Education Trust; the Academy Council; school staff; parents and the local community for all they bring to the school. Most of all, thank you to the students who have made every day exciting and unique.

The process for the appointment of a new Headteacher will commence very soon but, in the meantime, we look forward to welcoming you back in September 2022 for what, I hope, is a normal, positive and education focused year!

With very best wishes to you all for a restful, sunny summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E S Brett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'E' and 'B'.

E S Brett
Headteacher