



18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..."

Last week when asking Alexa to play this Christmas classic, it really brought it home to me the significance of the situation we have found ourselves in this year. With the lyrics **"When friends come to call"** and **"There'll be parties for hosting"** and **"When loved ones are near"** you realise just how different it has been. However, despite all these differences the positive sentiment of the song does serve to remind us of the kindness and generosity in our community.

Last month we would have celebrated with you, students, staff and Governors the wonderful aspects of TGAW at our Annual Awards Evening in the Cathedral. A phenomenal range of trips; events; shows; concerts; matches; fund raising activities and opportunities was on offer to our students many of which brought the whole community together demonstrating how special a place Tudor is.

We had a place on the world stage too :

- Mrs Mills visiting Nairobi and hosting eight teachers here for their return visit;
- Miss Jones running the New York marathon as a guide for the RNIB;
- Laura Brown representing England U17's in Bosnia;
- Simon Wyllie, Sixth Form, representing Great Britain at the European Cyclo-Cross championships near Venice;
- Three of our Sixth Formers attending the Student League of Nations conference in Geneva;
- TGAW receiving the prestigious British Council's International School Award for "bringing the world into the classroom" – Miss De Risio was invited to London to be presented with the plaque;
- Participating in Holocaust Memorial Day;
- Twinning toilets in Honduras, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Trips to New York City and Bergen Belsen;
- News of Miss Taylor's work and success at TGAW in Inclusive Sports was featured in a major Tokyo newspaper and Japanese news!
- Hosting 26 Spanish students in October and 37 Chinese students and staff here in January. The first reference to the Coronavirus occurs in January because a second visit by Chinese students was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the Chinese Government stopping all outward travel. Little did we know what this would quickly lead to!



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We are sorry not to be celebrating the achievements of our student this year because of the pandemic and another lockdown. We hope to be able to do so during 2021. Exam outcomes were very positive in a bizarre year. Forty four students went up to University. In the meantime, I would like to commend one student, Sonny Roach, who achieved 100% attendance through years 7 to 11. A unique record!

The winner of the College Cup 2020 was:

5 th Place with 11 points	Marlowe
4 th Place with 12 points	Walsingham
2 nd Place with 16 points	Tyndale and Vesalius
1 st Place with 20 points	Raleigh

Congratulations to Mrs Butler, College Leader and all her Tutors and students. A fantastic effort and a win for two consecutive years.

We are also celebrating receiving the Centre of Excellence Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Award. Inclusion promotes equal opportunities for all pupils, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment and background. It pays particular attention to the provision made for, and the achievement of, different groups of pupils within a school and any pupils who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion. Thank you to Mrs Harper for being our champion of this initiative.

I hope in the future you will have the opportunity to meet our new Chair of the Governors, Rebecca Widdowson, who was appointed in January. She is a Solicitor and Managing Partner of a law firm in Worcester City Centre. She is keen to develop parental communication alongside our new parent governors Karen Reynolds and Eleanor Bradley (Mate).

We have endeavoured to factor in some Christmas activities. Our Christmas Jumper Day raised a record £560 for Save the Children and everyone has enjoyed Christmas Lunch and Crackers today. Our College Competition to design a School Christmas Card resulted in so many stunning entries we found it hard to choose a winner! I am using the five winning entries on the front page of this letter. Congratulations to (from left to right) Isabella Strickland; Emily Tipper; Abigail Wolseley-Charles, Charlotte Passey and Evangeline Reynolds. The Christmas Hamper College Competition resulted in the donation of 64 hampers. Marlowe was the College Winner and the Achievement Team the staff winner. All the hampers will be distributed to people in our local community and the Food Bank. Thank you for your support and Ms Dewe for driving this fantastic initiative.

It is unprecedented and a little ironic in a year that left us speechless, 2020 has been filled with new words unlike any other. Words such as ant-vaxxer (a person opposed to vaccination); BC (before Coronavirus); Blursday (a day of the week that is indistinguishable from any other). Who would have anticipated that "bubbles" would have such significance? We are striving to thrive in difficult times and keep each other safe despite such wide prevalence of C19. I trust you are assured that we are doing our best. I am fortunate that I am not on a lone ship but am supported by a fabulous SLT, teaching and non-teaching staff. There will be some staff changes: Miss Samrai and Ms Di-Vito have left us this term and we wish them well in their next posts; Mrs Johnson is on maternity leave (a big welcome to Luca); Miss Taylor is on shared parental leave (a big welcome to Reuben) and Mrs Avery-Earl is returning from maternity leave in January. Mr Roach will be College Leader, Vesalius.

I hope you will have found the content of this letter uplifting and agree that TGAW has the potential to brighten up your days and keep the grey at bay as it does mine. I look forward to seeing you again. Until then, I send you my best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year in the hope that you can be with some members of your families.

Yours sincerely



David Butler
Principal