

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing at the start of the new term to welcome all our new pupils and highlight a few changes for the forthcoming academic year. Over the past few days, it has been wonderful seeing our pupils return to GTS and to start the process of getting to know our new pupils.

The school roll at GTS has reached a level that it has not seen for over ten years, the school is now at capacity and the facilities being used to their full potential. The challenges facing education have been well publicised over the past few years but at GTS we are determined to continue to deliver the school vision and values. The staff throughout the school continue to work tirelessly to provide a high-quality inclusive education as well as providing a vast range of opportunities that would not normally be found in many state schools.

It has become evident that for us to continue to do this, the relationship between school and parents/carers has become increasingly important. As I highlighted in my letter dated January 2024, research has shown that the trust in government institutions, including education, has eroded in some cases. It is essential that this shift is addressed and reversed and therefore I want to highlight that for your child to be successful at GTS we need to work collaboratively and in a position of mutual respect and support. By choosing to send your child to GTS you are choosing to support the school with its expectations surrounding behaviour, attendance, and academic rigour. Please ensure that all communication, whether written or verbal, face to face or on the phone, is respectful at all times and that all staff are treated appropriately.

We are constantly reviewing how we improve what we do at GTS and how we deploy our resources. As part of this, we are bringing some of our communication processes in line with many schools across the country, whereby we are going to be more reliant on online solutions for regular or basic levels of information. To this end we will be using ClassCharts and Parentmail as our main methods of communication including those related to behaviour and detentions.

ClassCharts is a fantastic way for you to involve yourself in the daily life of your young person at GTS, allowing you to support us with praise when things are going well, and likewise when things have not gone as the school or yourself will have wished. I would strongly recommend that all parents and carers have the ClassCharts app on any personal devices they have, as well as ensuring that their emails are updated as and when they are changed. Over the course of this year, we will continue to migrate our systems/processes to these two platforms. Attached to this letter is a document that outlines how detentions will be communicated via ClassCharts and Parentmail. We will shortly be providing you with an updated list of the other online systems we will be using this year.



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It is hoped that by making these changes, staff will have more time to develop stronger personal relationships with the parents and carers of our young people and the school will be to build greater capacity for further support and wider interventions. There will be times when a face-to-face meeting is required in order to best support your young person and it is important that, where possible, you make yourself available to attend. Whilst we will do everything to find a mutually convenient time, sometimes it may be required for you to prioritise your attendance as often multiple staff need to be available.

I hope by working in this collaborative manner, we can best support the outcomes for your child. My team and I are looking forward to working with you all through the coming year.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth  
**Headteacher**

