

24th September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

As a school we aim to communicate effectively with families, as often as possible. As costs are high we aim to communicate on-line where possible, to reduce the need to print / post. This letter follows on from our previous communication regarding the extended use of ClassCharts to notify parents about behaviour.

To facilitate this, we need your input to ensure we have key, up to date, information about you and your child/children. As there is no effective single system which combines all methods of communication this letter clarifies the current systems we have in place, and how to access them. As e-mail addresses synchronise across many of these systems it is vital your contact details are correct.

If you experience technical issues with any of these systems, please email help@gts.devon.sch.uk and our ICT team will endeavour to help. Further information is also available via our school website <https://gts.devon.sch.uk/online-systems/>



ClassCharts

We use this system to log scheduled homework for pupils. Parents can gain access to review their child's homework, behaviour, attendance, and timetable through this system. Login information is sent directly to your registered email address.

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

ParentMail

This is used as our main form of communication. This system sends emails to parents / carers whenever we have information to share, it is also used to send text messages regarding pupil absence. You can also make payments (for trips, equipment etc.), top up cashless catering balances and view what food your child has purchased. Login information is automatically sent to your registered email address.

<https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk/#pmx/overview>

ParentMail



GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL

Headteacher: Andy Bloodworth BSc (Hons) NPQH

Calvesford Road, Great Torrington, Devon, EX38 7DJ **Tel:** (01805) 623531

Email: admin@gts.devon.sch.uk



Parents Evening System

This is primarily used for Parents' Evenings bookings but can also be used for booking appointments for other events. We are currently using this to host the virtual element of our Parents' Evenings to enable parents / carers to meet with their child's teacher(s).

<https://greattorrington.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

SIMs Parent

Please use SIMs Parent to update your child's details (including medical and dietary) and your own contact details. You can also view your child's reports, timetable, after school activities, and the school diary. Login information is automatically sent to your registered email address. Attendance and Behaviour are now accessed via ClassCharts.

<https://www.sims-parent.co.uk/#/>



School Website

Here you will find official news and information about our school. You can find Home Learning resources if your child is absent, contact details for most staff and other valuable information regarding processes at GTS.

www.gts.devon.sch.uk

Facebook / YouTube

Facebook is primarily used for advertising and marketing purposes. Our YouTube channel is used for school videos, which enables them to be embedded into other systems. We also add posts if we have a significant event, if we are recruiting, or if there is a whole school announcement to share.

Consent

Consent forms are issued to all parents / carers at point of arrival at GTS and cover several areas, including publicity, school closure and local trips. Consent can be revoked at any time.

Data Collection Sheets

Key family / pupil data can be updated direct via SIMs Parent, however we also issue a paper copy once per year to Years 8-10, to ensure we reach everyone and keep our data as accurate as possible. We have a legal obligation to ensure all information is correct, and up to date, under current data protection legislation.

Cashless Catering

This system is used for all purchases of food at GTS, either using biometric (fingerprint) recognition or PIN numbers. Accounts can be topped up via ParentMail, where you can also see what has been purchased.



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Pupil / Subject Systems

Most of these are detailed on the school website under the relevant curriculum subject page, this includes how to access them. These are also detailed under Online Systems via the Pupil page on the school website.

We use Office 365 for emails, which pupils can access via <https://office.com> using their school email address and password. To access their files from home pupils currently use a system called Portico (please see the school website under Home Learning for more information) however pupils can also use OneDrive / SharePoint using the link above.

If you need ICT support, or if you are struggling to provide technology to support your child's education, we may be able to help. Please email help@gts.devon.sch.uk if you require any assistance, this includes the possibility of a school provided device. If you require support with access to data, this may also be considered. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will depend on availability at the time.

I apologise for such a lengthy letter, however we feel it's important parents are aware of the systems we use and as previously mentioned, we have a legal obligation to ensure all data we hold is accurate and up to date.

For any issues, please contact the school via help@gts.devon.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr J Buss
Head of Operations