

20/09/2021

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a relaxing and restful summer break and that your child/ren have settled in well at the start of a new academic year.

I was pleased with the grades that students were awarded both at GCSE and A Level in August across our Trust. The method of awarding grades this year was different to the last two years due to the pandemic, and they are not comparable to usual practice. Although the awarding of grades in 2021 is unique to 2021, we are tremendously proud of all our students and what they have achieved despite the unprecedented challenges of the past two academic years. The success of our students would not have been possible without the ambition, teamwork and honesty displayed by staff, families, and students. We wish all our former students the very best for their future.

I have enjoyed visiting the schools and getting to know the staff and students in each of our academies and look forward to my visits this year. The strength of character and determination that our students have shown over recent times is inspirational.

At national level, discussions are taking place about what external exams will look like in summer 2022. We will continue to prepare students for exams and to make a special contribution to the world we share. It is important that students leave our care with examination results that open doors and the skills and attitudes that will lead them to success for many years to come.

Key developments across all our schools this year include:

- Activating strategies that develop students' literacy.
- Agreeing on a 'body of knowledge' that is important for exams and success in life more generally and providing tools to help students know and remember more.
- Providing more regular training and coaching for staff.
- Supporting all students in being ready to learn including the use of more targeted questions in lessons.

The work we have commenced on literacy and being ready to learn is already evident across the Trust. We take literacy seriously at The Two Counties Trust, and I would remind families that reading to and with students will help them achieve more across the curriculum.

As in all schools and the Trust, safeguarding is our number one priority. We will continue to follow all government guidance and respond to national and local issues around safeguarding. As you will have heard on the news, there has been a real national focus on sexual abuse and violence in schools and colleges and we will continue to educate our students around this and other safeguarding issues. Our students are clear that we cannot allow any student to make another student feel uncomfortable in school and we will not tolerate any discriminatory behaviour.

I know staff, students and families have been busy preparing for the start of the school year and our students have come back looking really smart which is important as wearing the correct uniform is the first indicator that shows students are ready to learn. Wishing you all a successful and safe 2021 - 22.

Yours sincerely,

W.J. Davies .

Wesley Davies
Chief Executive Officer