

Welcome to Thomas Deacon Academy

Year 9 Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 11th September

Mrs Jenny Brassington
Vice Principal – Standards
and Outcomes



Who am I and why am I here?

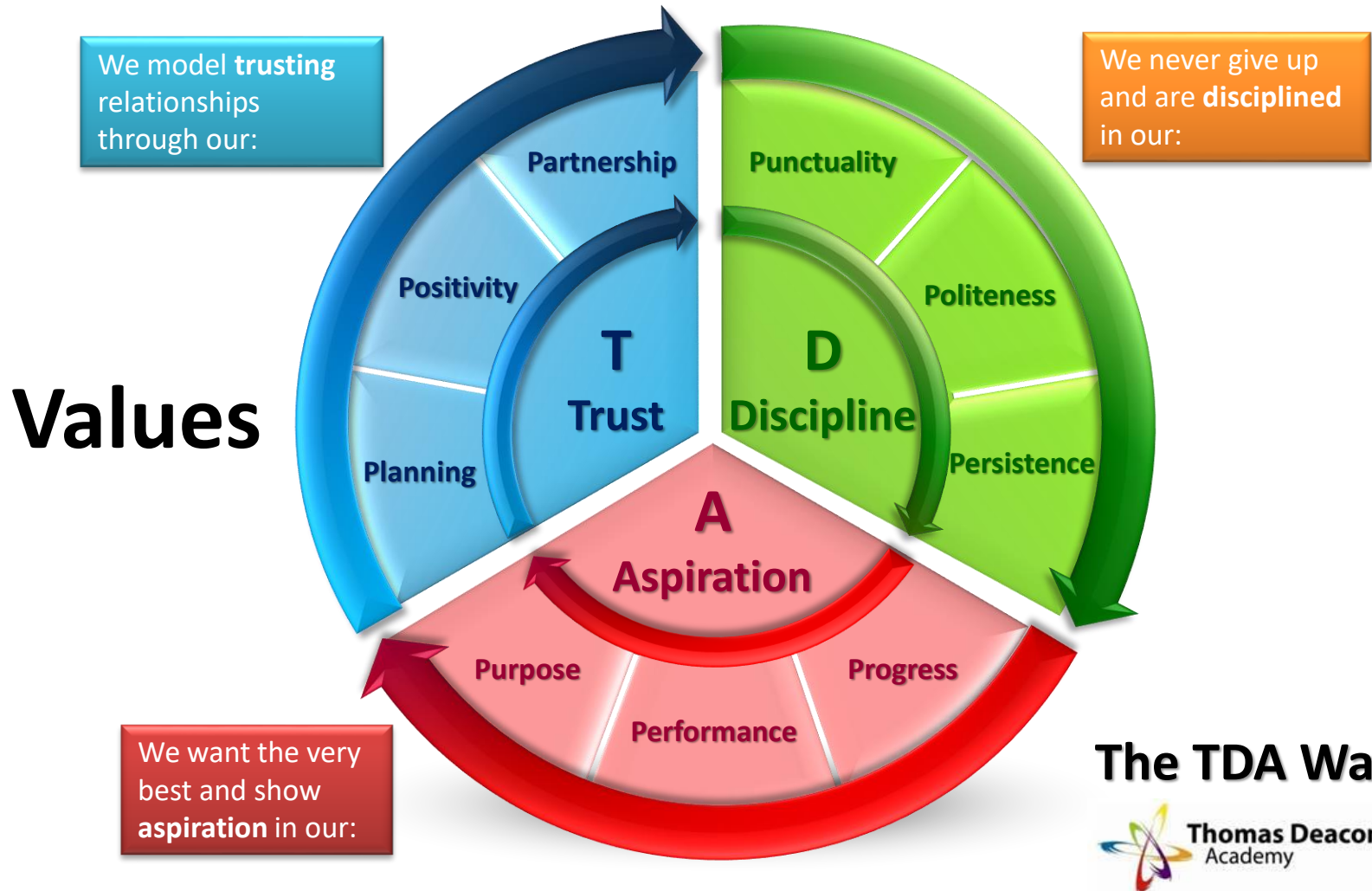
Mrs Brassington

Vice Principal

My job to support students to meet or exceed their target grades.



Our values



Our expectations

TRUST:

Planning – equipped for learning

Positivity – trying really hard in all lessons, working hard

Partnership – positive relationships with staff and other students

DISCIPLINE:

Punctuality – arriving to school and lessons on time, meeting homework deadlines.

Politeness – courteous and respectful to all

Persistence – keeping going when work is tough, responding positively to feedback.

ASPIRATION:

Progress, performance, purpose - working to the best of your ability, always looking to achieve the highest possible marks and showing determination to succeed.



Our expectations

TDA Classroom – 100% expectations



SEATING PLANS

Every teacher will have a seating plan for you so that you can focus on learning.

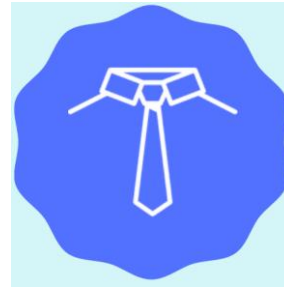


EQUIPMENT

At the start of every lesson you should take out:

- Exercise book
- Blue/black pen
- Purple pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- *Calculator

*if required



END OF LESSON

At the end of every lesson, you should ensure that you have your **ties and blazers on** and your **shirt tucked in**. You should then **stand by your chairs** until dismissed.

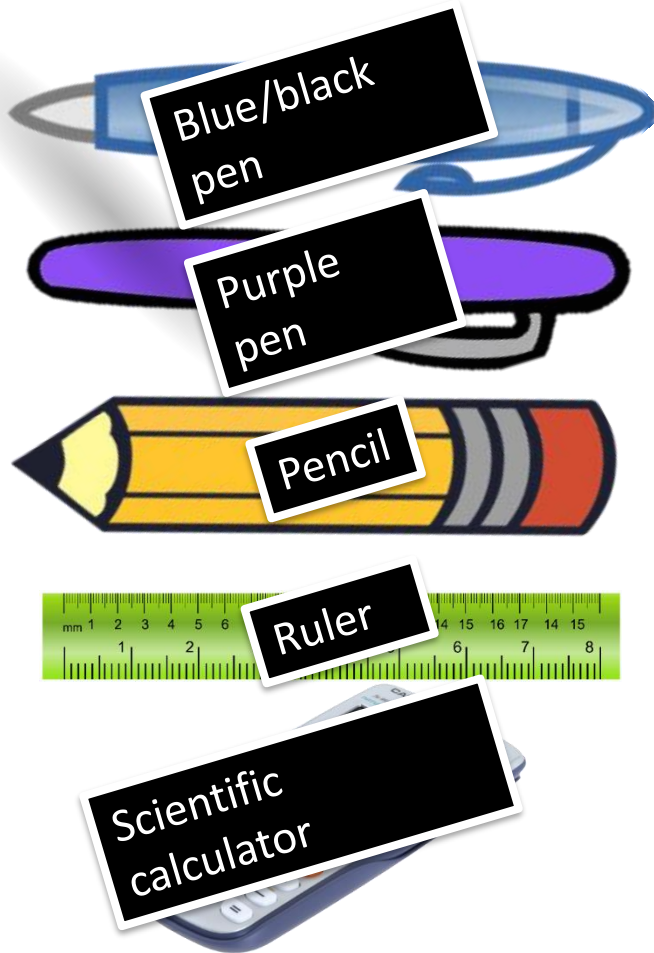


MOBILE TECH

If you have a mobile phone, headphones or any other device with you, they should be **switched off** and **in bags** throughout the school day.

Our expectations

TDA 100% equipment challenge

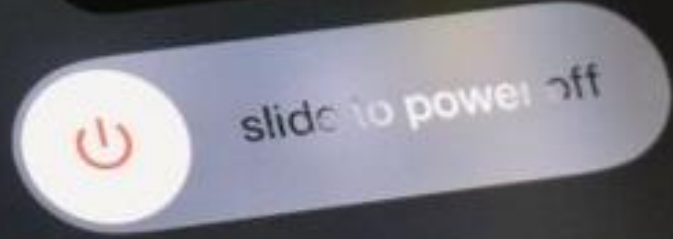


Your form tutor will be doing a regular equipment check to ensure you are ready to learn.

Every week, we will publish the names of tutor groups who have 100% of students with 100% equipment.

There will be prizes for the best performing tutor groups and the best performing house.

Help your tutor group get on the hall of fame by making sure you have 100% equipment every day.



The Big Switch Off
Wednesday 5th September



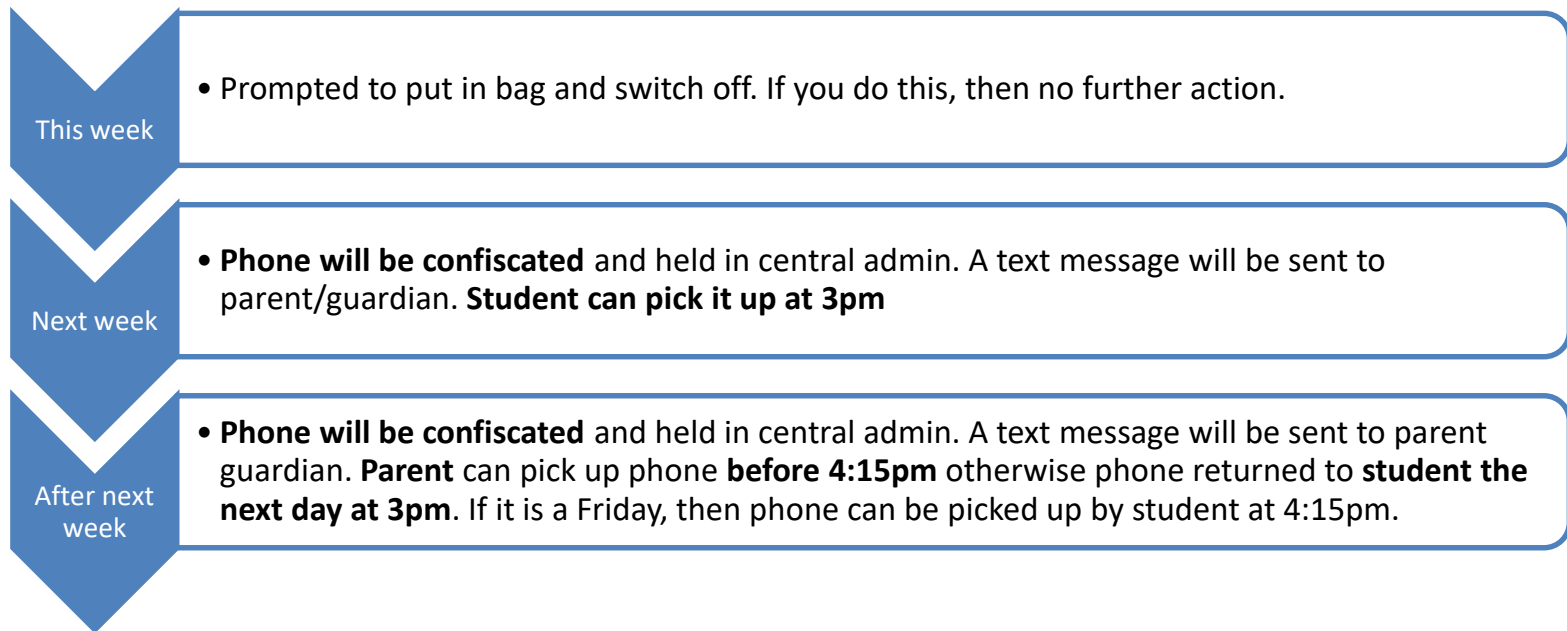
The Big Switch Off



- As you know, the use of mobile devices and personal headphones are no longer permitted at TDA.
- The purpose of this is to:
 - help you concentrate better in lessons
 - enable you to communicate better with one another around the academy
 - help you use mobile technology in a safe, healthy and considered way
- We recommend that you do not bring devices into school with you. If you need to, then they need to be switched off and in your bag **before** you enter the building.
- Phones/tablets/headphones should not be seen during the school day under any circumstances.

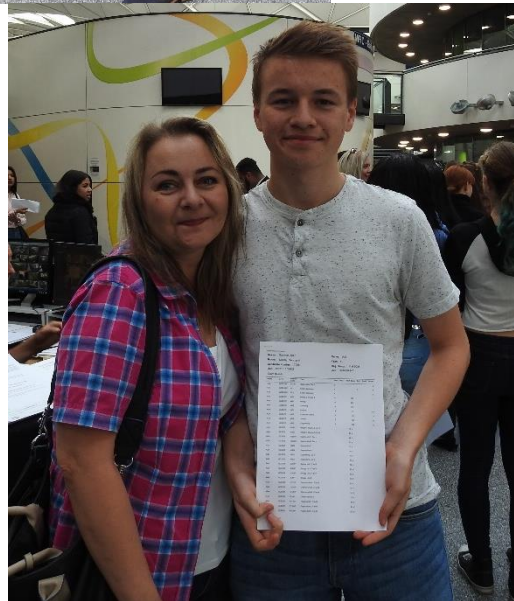
How will we support you?

In order to be fair in supporting you with this change, the following will happen if you are found with a phone by **any** member of staff:



All staff have been directed to confiscate mobile phones if they are seen or heard without any exceptions.

What success might look like...



Achievement – GCSEs have changed

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

No longer grades – numbers from 1-9

9 is the top grade



Achievement – being successful

- All students will have a TARGET level for Year 9.
- This is based on their KS2 SATs results AND what progress we would expect them to make in their GCSEs.
- GCSEs are now graded from 1-9 (numbers not letters) and 9 is the TOP grade.
- From these two pieces of information, each year they will have a target – meet every year's target and you will reach your GCSE potential higher than last year and will range from grade 2 up to grade 5.
- All students in Year 9 need to know their target and do their very best to achieve that in all of their work.



Achievement

- In all subjects students will have regular tests and regular homework.
- They will have Checkpoint reports three times this year.
- These will help you to see how your child is performing relative to their target grade.
- The progress will be monitored and children supported to meet their target grade.
- Whether students are on track to meet their target grade could have a role in determining the subjects that they are offered for GCSE.



Achievement – key dates

- Tuesday 2nd October – Parent-Tutor Evening
- Tuesday 29th November – Checkpoint 1 reports available
- Tuesday 29th November – Parent-Teacher consultation evening
- Wednesday 9th January – Pathways Evening
- Wednesday 27th March - Checkpoint 2 reports available
- w.c. 7th May - Year 9 examinations – core subjects.
 - Maths examination (Sports Hall)
 - English examination (Sports Hall)
 - Science examination (Sports Hall)
- Wednesday 17th July - Checkpoint 3 reports available



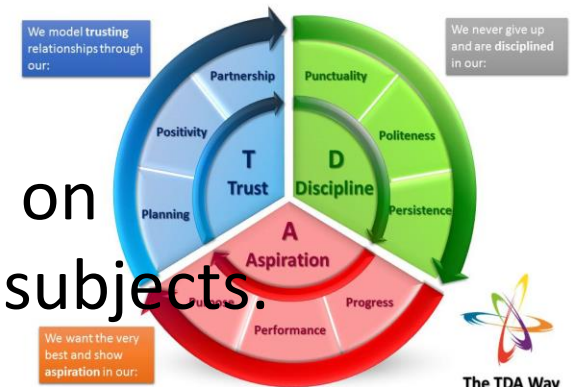
Pathways– Year 9

In year 9 students make their pathways choices for their GCSEs.

Mrs Fehrenbach will be holding a series of assemblies from half-term onwards to explain the pathways process and introduce the option subjects.

There is a Pathways Evening for parents and students on Tuesday 9th January and following this the process of choosing GCSE subjects will take place.

Pathway options will be determined based on
The progress that they are making in their subjects.



Exams this year – Year 9

The Year 9 examinations will take place at the beginning of May.

They will have exams in English, Mathematics and Science and will be held in the sports hall.

If students want to know what is in the examinations, they need to ask their class teachers, but assume that it is everything covered this year.



Attendance



Miss Giaquinto
Vice Principal Wellbeing

1 school year at **90%** attendance
= **4** whole weeks of lessons **MISSED!**



Let's look a little closer

- **90%** attendance over **5** years of secondary school....

= $\frac{1}{2}$ a school **year missed!**

- **80%** attendance over **5** years of secondary school....

= **1 school year missed!**

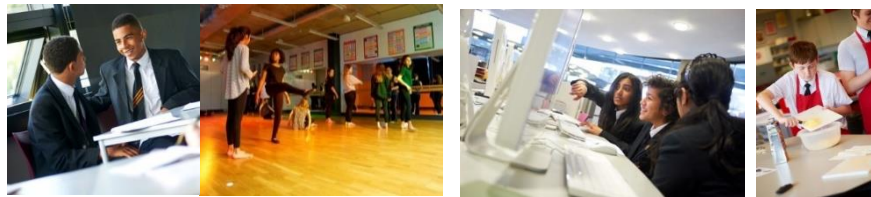


What does this mean for Simon's GCSE's?

Research suggests that:

17 missed school days a year
= **1** GCSE grade **DROP** in achievement. (DfES)

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.



Absence protocols

- Always call in on the first day of absence before **9.00am**
- If they have been signed off by a Doctor there is no need to ring in every day
- However if not and you have not stated or it is not clear how long they will be off then you must ring in **before 9.00am.**



English and Maths

**Mr Austin
Subject Leader
for English**

**Mr Warrick
Assistant Subject
Leader for Maths**

Assessment in lessons

Your child's teachers will use a range of methods to assess in lessons. This is so that they can adapt their teaching and be able to provide feedback if required. Here are some of the ways in which teachers may assess a child's work:

- Reading the work in exercise books
- Exit tickets – questions to answer at end of a lesson
- Using mini-whiteboards
- Using cold-call questioning (no hand up)
- Using low-stakes quizzes
- Using two-minute essays

Feedback

Based on the teachers' assessments, they may provide students with feedback to help them improve their work. This feedback may happen in a variety of ways such as:

- Verbal - either in a small group or one-one
- Whole-class – feedback to inform everyone at the same time
- Written – could involve feedback codes or other and be written in your books

The target for the teacher is to always find the most efficient and effective method of communicating feedback so that students are able to improve their understanding and/or their work.

Feedback Improvement Time (FIT)

After a teacher has provided feedback, any improvements students make should be completed using **purple pen**. This is so we can track the improvements in books.

Teachers may set a FIT task which will give students the opportunity to demonstrate any improvement in understanding. This should also be completed in a **purple pen**.

All students have received a **purple pen** and it is their responsibility to look after it; if lost a replacement should be bought from the school shop.

How can I help my child?

HOMework

In Year 9 students will receive approximately 30 minutes per week homework in Maths, English and Science and 30 minutes per fortnight from all other subjects.

This can all be checked on Show My Homework.

Is it possible to provide them with a quiet area to work – no TV?

Encourage students to put away all electronic devices. (Some homework might need IT but some, especially revision will need to be done on paper.)

How can I help my child?

HOMework



Miss Massey

Carolyn.massey@tda.education

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