



16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

The end of what can only be described as the most unusual and exceptional school year on record will soon be here. The taste of the return to school for some in recent weeks, and for others the Zoom contact to compliment the online learning, has re-kindled the enjoyment of meeting friends and teachers that school life brings. We are all looking forward to the return to full time education in September.

Schooling in September will be so different to schooling pre-COVID. We need to ensure that coming to school is as safe as possible within the pandemic climate, adhering to the advice issued by the Government and Public Health England.

The main principal that schools need to follow is to maintain social distancing of teachers from students whilst keeping the students themselves in a year group 'bubble'. This requires some significant changes on how we operate the school in September. Some year groups like Year 7 and Year 8 will be largely taught in one classroom with the teachers of the different subjects coming to the class. Movement of other year groups will be minimised and each year group when moving will be using a dedicated route to avoid mixing of years where possible. There will be less practical activities and no sharing of practical equipment. After school meetings, large scale events and trips all remain not possible for the foreseeable future.

We will be operating a full catering service with hot meals. Break and lunch will be staggered to avoid long queues and the mixing of year groups. The use of finger scanning for ParentPay will be replaced with issuing a card so payment continues to be cashless. Each year group will have a designated eating area such as the Refectory or the Hall. Similarly when outside, each year group will have a designated area. We are buying additional outdoor furniture and table tennis tables to enable us to facilitate this.

The start of school is naturally staggered from 8am to 8.40am, with breakfast provided in the Refectory from 8am as before, but still keeping year groups separate. Movement into the building once school starts will be controlled through assembling each year group and then the year moving to their classrooms through a designated route. We will also stagger dismissal at the end of school.

We have been asked by local and national Government to encourage students to walk to school or cycle safely. As most students live close, the need for parents to drive students to school or use public transport should be minimised where possible.

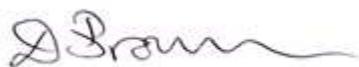
There are many other changes occurring but too much detail for me to provide in my letter. We will be bringing students back to school staggered over a few days so that we can introduce all the students to the new routines in a safe and orderly way. Details of the start of term are below. A booklet is also being prepared for students and parents, which will be sent to you later, as well as being available on our website.

Year Group	Date	Start time
7	Friday 4th Sept	8.40am
8	Tuesday 8th Sept	8.40am
9	Tuesday 8th Sept	9.10am
10	Monday 7th Sept	8.40am
11	Monday 7th Sept	9.15am
12	Friday 4th Sept	10.30am (External students)
		11.30am (Internal students)
13	Monday 7th Sept	10am

As we do approach the end of term, I wanted to thank you all for your patience and understanding as we all have had to cope with the impact of the pandemic and the changes it has brought to all aspects of life. Moving forward, the school is as well prepared as possible for the return of students in September, and to provide the standard of education expected.

Whatever you are doing during the summer vacation, we wish you a safe and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing students return at the start of September.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Brown
Head Teacher