

Monday 7th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Update

It was wonderful to see our students in Years 8 to 11 back in school and to welcome our new Year 7 students today. All of our students in Years 7 to 11 look very smart indeed in their school uniform for which I am very grateful to you. I look forward to welcoming our Year 13 students back tomorrow and our Year 12 students on Wednesday.

The students have now left for the day; our first day back in school for our students seems to have gone very smoothly and they have adapted very well to our new way of working. I have always believed that if one has high expectations of our young people then the vast majority will not disappoint and today has been proof positive as our students have settled back into school very quickly indeed and I have been very impressed by them.

For many this is the first time back in school for five months, but walking around the school today one would never know given their excellent attitude and conduct. I am very grateful to our staff for their efforts in making our new routines and approach to teaching and learning go so well.

Our Year Group 'bubbles' system appears to be working well and there are plenty of hand sanitisers in classrooms and around the school. Unfortunately for the time being we can only provide lunch for Year 7 students and those students who are entitled to a free school meal. I am grateful to our families for ensuring that our other students have a packed lunch with them.

We will constantly review our situation to establish if and when we can bring back those aspects of school life that we have suspended for the time being such as our after-school provision, clubs and extracurricular activities. For now, the emphasis is on getting our students back into the routine of lessons and our pastoral programme.

I should like to take this opportunity to remind family members that if they have a reason to come into school that, just as with shops, it would be considerate and polite if a face covering is worn whilst on our school premises. I should also like to remind parents to not park in the school bus lane in Maidenbower Lane before and after the school day. Parking in the school bus lane causes unnecessary congestion and impedes the school bus from parking in its designated lane. School staff will be on duty each morning and afternoon and will ask parents/carers to move if they park in the bus lane. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as it helps keep Maidenbower Lane safe for all our students.

I remain very grateful to you for your continued support through these unusual times and once again I thank you for ensuring that our students have returned looking so smart and with such a positive attitude. This is a new academic year and so as I said to the students when I visited them this morning in their new year-based registration groups: Happy New Year!

With my best wishes to you and your family

Yours faithfully

Philip Stack
Headteacher