

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Update

I am writing to you as we approach the end of our first two cycle of our timetable for this academic year. Our students and our staff have adapted to our new way of working incredibly well and I am very proud of them all. As we have now completed the two week cycle of our timetable we wish to make a change to the start of lessons from Monday. Given that the students now know where they should sit according to the seating plan for each lesson there is no need for them to wait outside the room to be told where to sit in their allocated seat. From Monday all students should enter their classroom upon arrival, take their allocated seat and start getting ready to learn. Their teacher may arrive a few minutes after them as the teacher may be coming from a point further away in the school than the students who are moving around within their zone. I have faith in our students being sensible as they wait for the lesson to start due to our school culture of high expectations (of ourselves and each other), trust and mutual respect. This movement into classrooms upon arrival will all but eradicate any sense of congestion between lessons / mentor time.

I should be grateful if all students would carry with them their own personal hand sanitiser at all times.

There is a danger in some school communities as we approach the season of colds and coughs that levels of anxiety may increase at the sound of coughing or sneezing. I have sent with this letter a document that I hope our families may find helpful, particularly when we enter the season of colds / flu. In our new way of working we are keeping our work to the core business of teaching and learning and pastoral support for our students. It is still the case that, regrettably, we cannot offer extra-curricular activities at this time.

Due to the restrictions currently in place I can confirm that we will **not** be holding our usual open evening events for families researching schools with a view to deciding where to apply for a place in Year 7 or Year 12 for September 2021.

If you know of families with Year 6 children I should be grateful if you would let them know that due to the cancellation of our Year 7 open evening we are putting together a virtual equivalent of the event. There will be a virtual tour of the school including visits to lessons to hear from some of our students and staff and a short address from me. This virtual open evening experience will be available for viewing within the next two weeks. For our prospective Year 12 students we will arrange a form of open evening events whereby subject staff will meet with our Year 11 students in manageable groups to explain the curriculum and learning opportunities offered in the subject area in our Sixth Form. More details of these events will be sent directly to our Year 11 families in due course.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in these strange times and for the great part that you have played in ensuring that our students returned to school ready to learn and with a positive frame of mind. It has been wonderful to see them all back and looking so happy and content with our new arrangements. I hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and well.

With my best wishes to you and your family.

Your faithfully

Philip Stack
Headteacher