

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in bringing your children back to school this week. I am conscious that there has been a huge amount of extra information this year for parents/carers and there is a lot to take on board.

We are delighted to have all students back in school and they have demonstrated enthusiasm and positivity and conducted themselves exceptionally well adapting to the new normal.

Our amended arrangements for entry and exit to the site are now established and I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation. A number of students have been required to use different gates to arrive and leave. Can I please request that parents/carers dropping off or picking up the students are very mindful and respectful of our local community and its residents? This is particularly important with regard to car drivers. Please be vigilant of the significant number of young people within these areas.

I am aware that a number of students travelling into the school on public transport have experienced longer than usual journey times. The bus services are independent of the school but we will be looking to support/work with them to provide a better service than our students are currently experiencing.

Until further notice, teachers will not be physically interacting with student books or folders to limit the potential for cross-contamination. This means that you will not see any marking directly in your child's book. Instead, we are asking that, in the vast majority of cases, work that is due to be marked is completed digitally and submitted to the teacher via email or Microsoft Teams. Year 7 students unfamiliar with this will be introduced to it in the coming weeks. Work will then also be marked digitally and returned to the student. If this cannot happen in class due to issues with computer access, it will be set on Edulink and/or Microsoft Teams for students to complete as homework. There will be some instances where digital work cannot happen, and in these circumstances, all handwritten work will be handled in accordance with our hygiene measures. This will be kept under review in accordance with guidelines.

This change will mean that, for now, students will have written feedback from teachers less frequently, however, students will continue to receive verbal feedback throughout their lessons. They will also continue to receive meaningful next step tasks whenever work is marked and subsequent opportunities to develop their work using these.

In these uncertain times we continue to take the welfare of staff and students in the school and the wider community very seriously. With that in mind we would request that from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 parents consider our strong advice that we would like students to be wearing a face covering whilst moving around the school and in communal areas and would welcome your support in ensuring that students have this as part of their equipment.

Thank you to all who have given feedback both in terms of highlighting potential issues, raising questions or just recognising the enormity of our task to ensure that your children can attend school safely.

Yours faithfully

Mr N Dunn  
Headteacher