

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Return to School Information

I hope you and your friends and family have had a safe and enjoyable summer break.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself. My name is John Cowper and I feel incredibly proud to be given the opportunity to lead our school from September. Entering my twenty third year in the profession, half of which on senior leadership teams, my main areas of responsibility have been in behaviour, safeguarding and pupil progress.

A vital component in ensuring every child reaches their potential is having high standards and expectations in all areas of school life. I very much look forward to working with you to ensure all children feel safe and enjoy school, behave well and take responsibility for their learning whilst also making the most of every opportunity available outside of the classroom. I have attached a copy of our home school agreement for your reference which outlines our collective responsibilities to ensure your child thrives throughout their time with us.

Covid-19 update

I fully appreciate the last 18 months have been incredibly challenging for us all. September allows us to have a fresh start when we return to relative 'normality'. Some key points, which are in our risk assessment, to what school will look like include:

- Pupils will not be required to be in bubbles
- Pupils will still be sat in rows, where possible, to minimise face to face interaction
- There is no requirement for pupils or staff to wear masks although you may should you wish
- Good hygiene and the use of wipes in specialist rooms will continue to be promoted
- Windows will need to be open as we must ensure there is sufficient ventilation

Anyone testing positive still needs to isolate although close contacts who are a) under 18 years and 6 months old, b) adults who are fully vaccinated, c) anyone who has taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or finally d) anyone not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons **do not need to isolate** if in close contact with someone who tests positive inside or out of school.

Staff and pupils are still encouraged to self-test twice weekly. The government is reviewing testing at the end of September. Pupil test kits will be distributed to those that want to continue testing at home.

Anyone showing symptoms must still isolate until a PCR test is taken to confirm whether you are positive or negative.

We will still offer an online learning provision for pupils who are isolating.

Our detailed risk assessment and Outbreak Management Plan can be found on our school website:
<https://www.lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk/covid-19>



Lunchtime

We have made a slight change to the timing of lunch from Monday 6 September. The rationale for these changes is to provide a greater balance to the school day, allowing for pupils and staff to rehydrate and eat at timely points. This will support everyone's health and wellbeing and improvements to the quality of Teaching and Learning.

The start and finish times of the school day have not changed.

8.40	Start of school day and movement time
8.45 - 9.05	Form time
9.05 - 10.05	Period 1
10.05 - 11.05	Period 2
11.05 - 11.20	Break
11.20 - 12.20	Period 3
12.20 - 1.05	Lunch including 5 minutes movement time starting at 1.00
1.05 - 2.05	Period 4
2.05 - 3.05	Period 5
3.05	End of school day

Uniform

Wearing the correct uniform and wearing it with pride is incredibly important to promote a sense of belonging to our school community. Please reference our uniform expectations on our website in readiness for our return: <https://www.lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk/students/uniform>

Please ensure any false/acrylic nails have been removed and hair styles/colours are appropriate. If you have any issues regarding uniform, please contact school and we will work together to ensure your child is appropriately presented.

Attendance and Punctuality

Having good attendance is essential to support social development and learning. We set an attendance target of 97% for all pupils – this equates to a child having no more than 5 days off throughout the year. In addition, being on time to school and to lessons is equally important as this maximises every minute for learning, reduces the disruption to other pupils learning and helps prepare pupils for the world beyond school.

Behaviour

Good behaviour, both inside and out of the classroom, helps create a safe and orderly school environment where teachers can teach and pupils can learn. In turn, pupils enjoy school and make good academic progress. We have made some amendments to the current behaviour system and these will be shared with all pupils on their return to school on Monday 6 September. We will use next week to refresh pupils our behavioural expectations.

Pupil support

Sometimes there can be barriers which have a negative impact on a child in school. Our dedicated pastoral team is here for you and your child should you be experiencing any difficulties. Please contact your child's House Tutor in the first instance should you have any concerns and we will look to source and implement the appropriate support.

Communication

Open channels of communication between school and home are really important. If you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact us. House Tutors are your initial point of contact and if necessary, other staff may be signposted if they are best placed to address your enquiry.

I'm sure you will appreciate the busyness of a school day. We will endeavour to reply to your query as soon as practicably possible. If you wish to meet with a member of staff, please make an appointment at a mutually convenient time as staff may not be available should you arrive at school without an appointment.

First day back

Year 7 ONLY – Friday 3 September: 8.40 – 3.05

ALL year groups – Monday 6 September: 8.40 – 3.05

I very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school and working closely with you as we aim to accomplish our common goal of providing the best education for every child in our care.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Cowper
Acting Principal

