

Head of Year 8 – Mr Digby

Good morning Year 8,

This week has been a very busy week, truth be told most weeks have been busy as we continue to support all of our students in very different ways. Seeing the Year 10s and Year 12s in school has given everyone a lift and this week we have been preparing to welcome the 7s, 8s and 9s back into school.

I must admit, I am very excited to be seeing you all over the next 2 weeks. Many of your teachers have been working hard to ensure that you are safe and have an engaging and interesting day in school. Your parents should have received confirmation of what day you are due in school along with the practicalities of timings and expectations. If you haven't then please email school@durhamjohnston.org.uk or me direct p.digby@durhamjohnston.org.uk for advice.

I know many of you are looking forward to seeing friends, classmates and getting back into school. We have taken every precaution to keep you safe and there are systems in place to help that. There are social distancing and cleaning routines that will need to be followed. Some of you may be a little anxious about coming in for the first time or unsure if your friends will be in the same group. Please don't be, your form tutor will be there throughout the morning along with other teachers to help, guide and support you. Your highlight of the day will of course be me welcoming you back and captivating you with my witty, funny but yet important messages and thoughts for the day.

As mentioned, your safety and the safety of others is our prime concern. It is important that you follow any guidance / instructions given during your time with us – this is very strange for all of us. There are some organisational issues, which you need to be aware of on the day of your visit:

- You will remain in your split form groups for the duration of the session.
- Members of the school staff will be waiting to greet you and guide you to the correct classroom; these won't be your normal form rooms.
- Please ensure you arrive at the school gates at the correct time 08:30am
- You won't be able to access other areas of the building, including your lockers.
- Don't bring any bags – you will only need to bring something to write with.
- Please remember –you are not expected to wear school uniform this week but will be in PE kit. If you cannot manage PE kit then you may wear either trousers/skirt with a shirt/blouse – no ties and no blazers allowed.

As we get closer to the summer holidays, we get closer to year 9. September will be here before we realise and along with that will be GCSE options. My challenge for you is to start thinking about careers. As mentioned previously the question of "what do you want to be when you grow up?" may be an impossible one to answer, but please try and give it some thought, maybe also speak with your parents and carers.

Stay safe and best wishes

Mr Digby