



20 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a pleasure to welcome everybody back for the summer term. We begin the term with a sense of purpose and believe it will be a hugely successful one for our Year 7 students.

Our young people continue to impress us with the amount of knowledge they have acquired during 'lock-down learning'. Our internal assessment processes and reviews show that they have not only acquired a great deal of powerful curriculum knowledge but are also able to deploy this knowledge to tackle those key questions that different curriculum subjects pose.

Despite this encouraging evidence of progress we are keen to exploit the opportunities that are presented to us by our new accommodation as well as taking some decisive operational decisions to further extend and accelerate progress for our students.

With this in mind, I would like to outline for you a number of initiatives we will be taking over the final term of the year.

Moving into New Accommodation

The building project remains on course and we expect to open our new teaching block over May half term. We will be taking an exceptional closure day on May 28 to facilitate the move. We will need to put in place a number of changes to the Covid-19 Risk Assessment and the way that our 'bubbles' operate to ensure that students are able to access some of the new specialist facilities that we will have on offer.

Early promotion of the 2021-22 Timetable

In order to maximise learning opportunities and ensure that the 2021-22 academic year is our most successful yet, Year 7 will be making the transition to Year 8 early when we move into the new buildings on 7 June. This will mean that they will begin a new timetable with new teaching staff on this date.

This will enable staff to embed key concepts and the foundations required to access the more challenging work they will encounter in Year 8. We are confident that this will also ensure that students are able to make a smooth transition into Year 8 and their new classes prior to the September return.

New School Day

The current school day has been a temporary arrangement whilst we complete our building works. The school day from 7 June will need to revert to the original timings although we will continue to split the lunchtimes for KS3 and KS4/5 as this has been a very successful strategy. In addition, we have

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listened carefully to student and parent voice and will be maintaining the 14:45 finish to better facilitate transport arrangements.

The new school day from 7 June will be as follows:

Time	Lesson		Mins		
8.30 – 9.00	Registration / PSHE		30		
9.00 – 10.00	1		60		
10:00 – 11.00	2		60		
11.00 – 11.15	break		15		
11.15 – 12.15	3		60		
Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4 and 5		
Time	Lesson	Mins	Time	Lesson	Mins
12:15-12:45	Lunch	30	12:15-13:15	4	60
12:45-13:45	4	60	13:15-13:45	Lunch	30
Time	Lesson		Mins		
13:45-14:45	5		60		

Form Tutors

Our new accommodation has been designed to maximise the pastoral and curriculum needs of the students. As we transition into the new buildings and the new timetable we will also be transitioning into the care of the pastoral team that supports their new Year group. For Year 7, this means that Mr Lord will become the new Pastoral Leader for your child, and he and his team will work with Mrs Ogden to ensure a smooth change over to their new form tutor team.

To ensure that these changes are successfully implemented, we will be operating a late start and phased return for Year 7 on Monday 7 June. This will allow us to complete orientation exercises, induct students into the new risk assessment and buildings and new routines. We will write to you with the details for the 7 June ahead of May half term.

This is an incredibly exciting time for the school, students, parents and staff. Whilst we will not see the demolition of old buildings and associated landscaping and new PE courts until later this calendar year, the move into the new accommodation is a welcome tonic in what has been a difficult year.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Clayton
Headteacher