



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

September 2020

Dear Families,

I am really pleased to be writing to you following the reopening of school to all year groups. I would like to thank all families for their support in ensuring all the learners were prepared for school, through reading all the documentation forwarded and sharing this information with learners before they returned to school. Attendance has been extremely high and in line with normal attendance levels in other academic years.

The school and school systems do feel different and we have shared the changes and the reasons behind for them with all learners. The learners have adapted to these changes really positively and are aware that we would like to hear their opinions as we move forward as a school and review the changes to our school during these unprecedented times. Next week we will be sending out a survey to all parents about the changes that have had to be put in place as part of the government guidance. The survey will also have a section on different types of intervention/catch up sessions that the school is looking to run this year to support lost learning. The government has released funding to all school for catch up intervention. This can take place in a number of different format including afterschool, weekend and holiday sessions as well as time within the school day. These interventions are costly and it is import we have parental views on which you and your child are able to engage in to ensure that the work we do has the best possible impact.

Following consultation with the learners and having reviewed the first week of operation the school opening time has been adjusted to 8:35am from 8:40am. This will allow the learners more time to be prepared following their journey to school and to arrive at their central points on time. Due to the timing of the government guidance the majority of the planning and changes have had to take place over the summer with little opportunity to consult learners. This is not our preferred way of working and we will continue to provide opportunities for learner voice over the next couple of weeks as we settle into the new routines.

The new school zones and one way system are allowing for less movement of learners throughout the school day. The central points are new for the learners and staff and they are quickly becoming part of our everyday routines.

The change to the school day have allowed for separate year groups to have their own dining rooms and the learners really seem to appreciate the space and time this has provided them with at lunch. With regards to lunch, please can I remind you that the school is a cashless system. You can top up accounts, using Pluspay through Parentmail.

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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As you will be aware the school has had to adapt the current boys and girls toilets to allow the school to separate learners from different key stages. The government guidance is clear that schools must limit the use of shared spaces by year groups. Previously the school has only had one set of girls and boys toilets for all year groups. The toilets have been changed following all guidance on such site changes. The move to unisex toilets is something that is being phased in, in the majority of schools including all new builds. This is a transition for the learners and has been a planned development but the timing has had to be brought forward during the summer owing to the pandemic. There is more work planned later in the term to improve the cosmetic look of these facilities.

Last week the government brought out further guidance on reopening for secondary schools. This set out 4 tiers of opening in the event of further local lockdowns which includes a rotation model and partial closures similar to those in place from June when some year groups returned to school. The Local Authority have the responsibility for enacting further restrictions as part of any local lockdown. A copy of the school's planned response to any further restrictions on school will be shared on the website in the coming days. Owing to the school being in tier one of a local lockdown are learners have been required to wear face coverings within all communal areas. The learners have adjusted to this extremely well and have been very professional in their approach to this. Please can I just advise that all learners need a small sellable bag to keep their face masks in when not being used.

Our learners have transitioned amazingly well in the last couple of weeks and are a credit to the school. They have shown an incredible level of maturity in understanding the changes and the importance of the adaptations. Over the coming months I will continue to update you as government guidance evolves and again I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Fay Beach
Headteacher



Tracey Marshall
Deputy Headteacher