



**Opportunity
Community
Courage**

END OF AUTUMN HALF TERM 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

This has been a very busy and highly successful return after the significant disruption of the last 18 months or more. I have been impressed by our students' attitudes towards getting back into the right academic mindset for effective learning. Walking around the school every day I can clearly see the impact of the teaching and learning changes we have made and the incredibly positive response to the changes from our children.

Next half term will continue to be busy as we look to go to the next phase of our recovery planning and make the school the best it can be. I have summarised the changes below. Please read them carefully. We will be talking in detail to the children about them when we return.

Investing in ICT to support learning

Further great news for our teaching and learning provision is the **full refit of all our ICT rooms** ready for 1 November. This will ensure that in every classroom and offices across the school there is access to the best performing computers for the support of high-quality teaching and learning.

Improving our building 1: CCTV install and additional site fencing

The safety of our children is always our main priority. Across next half term, a new and extended CCTV system will be fitted covering all aspects of our building, both internally and externally. This supports all aspects of safeguarding and allows us a HD view of the entire school at all times. Additionally, we are securing aspects of our site with new fencing and gate access. This work begins on 1 November.

Improving our building 2: Changing how our building works

Since the pandemic we have looked closely at how our building 'flow' can be managed more effectively. Increasing safe movement around the school and streamlining travel around the building have been key design features in the changes we are making. Internal works will begin in November. Prior to this we will be modelling the changes with temporary barriers to educate the children into how to use the new building layout. We are confident this will impact the children positively, reducing travel time to lessons and keeping our corridors calm, clear and quiet.

Changes to the school day and 1 November return arrangements

I have attached to this letter a model which illustrates how we are making some changes to the school day from 1 November. As I re-assured you in the summer term, we have reviewed the effectiveness of having split break and lunchtimes for our children. What we have learnt is that since the COVID/bubble model that we used across the pandemic has been removed, the split break/lunch detracts from the overall quality of the day. Therefore, **we will move back to the model of the day we have used prior to the pandemic**. We will outline this model to the students on the first day back. There is no change to the start and end of the day times. Similarly, there is no change to Wednesday start/end.

1 November return

To ensure staff and students are fully briefed on the changes to our building, our school day and our school rules/rewards, **all students will return to school at 8.45am on 1 November**. They will then have an extended tutor period with their Form Tutor where all changes will be discussed.



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Student Leaders

We had the privilege of awarding the highest student leadership honours to our Head Girls/Boys in Upper and Lower School recently. The calibre of candidates was very high, and Mrs Norton was presented with quite a challenge to make the selections below. These are incredibly important roles to hold and make the students a formal part of the school's history and culture. With great pride, I can announce our new leaders are:

- Senior Head Boy: Alex Garrett
- Senior Head Girls: Molly Higson and Corinne Pearse
- Deputy Head Boy: Rhys Cheers
- Deputy Head Girls: Holly Cooke and Kayleigh Jones
- Junior Head Boy: Max Bainbridge
- Junior Head Girls: Kellie Broadhurst and Tayla Wiseman
- Deputy Junior Head Boy: Marley Rae Cornes
- Deputy Junior Head Girls: Sophie Entwistle and Tiarna Frost

Staffing

Important recruitment has continued since September. We have recruited new teaching assistants, pastoral managers, a data and exams officer, a new cover supervisor, another languages teacher and a new Director of Humanities to join our team. All colleagues will join us in the period up to January and we will introduce them properly closer to their arrival. Recruitment in Maths, Science and support roles will continue across the coming months as the school moves forward.

Communication with school during the working day

It is incredibly important to us that we have strong and clear lines of communication established between home and school. I know how frustrating it can be when there are delays in replying to calls during the day. From 1 November we are encouraging all parents/carers to return to using the email address system that was so successful during the lockdown periods.

If your child is in Year 7, 8 or 9 please make contact via ks3@sws.cheshire.sch.uk

If your child is in Year 10 or 11 please make contact via ks4@sws.cheshire.sch.uk

Should you call school during the day please be aware that our staff have high teaching loads and are unlikely to be able to return a call during the day. We aim to respond to calls within 24 hours.

Similarly, I would remind parents/carers not to arrive at the school site during the day unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. Good communication is something we are always working on, and your support on these things will help us enormously.

Queens Jubilee – Additional Holiday

We were notified by government that there would be an additional holiday to be taken during this academic year to mark the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. School and academies were given discretion on when this can be applied. We will take Friday 18 December as our additional day and will break for Christmas on **Thursday 17 December. School returns on Wednesday 5 January 2022.**



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Face Coverings

Due to the continued high rates of COVID 19 across Crewe and Cheshire East, **face coverings will continue to be mandatory** in all communal settings (corridors and canteen). Please ensure that your child has a face covering.

Key Dates for Autumn Half Term 2:

Monday 1 November to Thursday 17 December 2021 at 12.20pm.

Year 11 Mocks 1 November - 12 November 2021

As you can see, we continue to be in a moment of incredibly positive change. Everything listed above is designed to give our students the safest, best quality teaching and learning environment that we possibly can. As I mentioned earlier, the response from students has been impressive. Walking through our classrooms every day I have seen work in children's books of a higher standard than I have seen previously. There is a great dynamic emerging between our children and our teachers that is starting to produce great things. A fantastic way to close the half term.

I hope all members of our school family have a happy, safe and healthy break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J Fraser", written over a horizontal line.

Mr Fraser
Principal