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Tuesday 20 July 2021

End of Summer term 2021

All SWS families,

As we come to the end of the school year, I am writing to you to outline some key information for the start of next year and indicate some of our changes in preparation for September.

This has been quite a school year for everyone. We returned in September to teach in bubbles, we taught remotely, re-opened fully, launched some powerful new initiatives around teaching and learning and then felt another hit of COVID disruption just as we were closing out the year. Throughout all this I have continued to be impressed by the children and the staff working together to keep moving forward. It has been a simultaneously exhausting and inspiring period of time in school.

As we look ahead and plan for a successful future for our children, I have included below a summary of the changes we are implementing across this period in order to position the school strongly for the journey ahead.

Staffing changes

One of our priorities during this last academic year was to **re-build and grow our staffing teams**. We recently said goodbye to a number of long serving staff: Mr S. Collins, Mr W. Gilligan, Mrs C. Harrison, Mrs N. Gallagher and Mrs J. Tarbuck have been with us for many years and we thanked them accordingly for the service they have given education across the town. Our thanks also go to Mr Oakes, Mr Bentley, Miss Rowland, Mrs Beuhling, Mrs Connell, Mrs Giles, Mr Black and Mrs Jones who all leave us for new challenges. We would also like to thank Mr Hall, Mr Johnson and Mr Dowell for their excellent work in keeping things running smoothly for their colleagues.

In September we welcome a number of key people. We have a full re-build in **Maths**. The department will be led by Mr Taylor (Director) and Mr Hallyburton (Assistant Director and ex-Coppenhall student). They will be joined by Mr Holleran, Mrs Alman and Miss Mullany. Mrs Maudsley and Mrs Blenkley join us as we grow our **Languages** team, whilst (another) Mr Taylor joins us in **Geography** and Mr Lewis joins the team in **Performing Arts**. The staff team welcomed Mrs Gibson and Miss Webb (**English**) and Miss Armstrong (**Science**) in the final half term.

We will introduce the new teachers to the students at the beginning of term. We start the year with a strong group full of potential and ambition for our children's future.

The School day – Autumn Term 2021

Thank you to everyone who completed the **consultation** form on school day design. This helped hugely in getting a sense of community perspective on balancing several school agendas: **extending the school day** to assist educational **recovery**, blocking time for **high frequency professional development** and scaffolding time for **targeted interventions** for literacy, numeracy and communication.



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Our re-structured model meets all these design priorities. It will be reviewed throughout the Autumn term and a **further consultation will follow in November**. The model is attached separately to this letter and will be uploaded onto our website and other platforms during the summer. The key aspect of the day is the **increased number of hours for teaching and learning** compared to pre-pandemic levels. In August 2019 our offer for children was **25 hours per week** – the sector standard. From September 2021 this **increases to 27 hours and 10 mins for Years 8, 9 and 10**, whilst students in **Year 7 and 11 receive 28 hours and 25 mins**.

This is key to building teaching time back across the year. **By July 2022** we will have built back up to **three school weeks** of taught time back into the student's experience. A great platform for **recovery**.

Term dates reminder and the return to school

On-site testing will dictate the start of term. Children will need to test twice, 3-5 days apart prior to returning to the classroom. Children will **test the day prior to returning after the weekend**. The second test will be scheduled for the following days after their return. **Time slots for testing** will be sent out at the start of September for the start of testing on **Monday 6 September**.

| Year group | Monday 6 Sep | Tuesday 7 Sep | Wednesday 8 Sep |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Testing | Testing and return | Full return |
| 7 | Site LFD | 8.15 start: Induction + lessons | Timetabled lessons |
| 8 | Not in school | Site LFD | 8.30 start: Induction + lessons |
| 9 | Not in school | Site LFD | 8.30 start: Induction + lessons |
| 10 | Not in school | Site LFD | 8.30 start: Induction + lessons |
| 11 | Site LFD | 8.15 start: Induction + lessons | Timetabled lessons |



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Our priorities into 2022

In September we will upload to our website a family/community version of our **2021/22 School Improvement Plan**. Working closely with our sponsor, The Learning Alliance, and following the research and evidence-based work of the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) we will break our priorities into three areas to best meet the needs and ambitions of our student population. In summary we will:

- Deliver lessons that have high **quality quizzing and retrieval** practice as part of the daily experience in all subjects
- Secure highly effective **learning routines** across the school
- Deliver the best possible **literacy** and communication strategies to all children and target strategies where they are needed most.

Additionally, we will:

- Implement a **recovery curriculum** programme in lower school
- Design and launch a new **SEND** provision
- Deliver the **highest quality professional development** opportunities to ensure our teachers are highly skilled in meeting the needs of our students.

I will discuss the detail around these priorities as the school year begins so that you feel **fully informed** about how we will provide for children as we move forward.

Year 11 Results Day

Results day for our Year 11 Leavers is **Thursday 12 August**. Mr Smissen will be writing to all families concerned to outline the arrangements for the day. These details will also be posted across all our platforms.

COVID safety and testing

In addition to the government's direction on students testing before they return to school in September, new guidance for schools was released at the start of July. Central in the operating guidance for schools is the **continuing balance of safety and the desire to remove self-isolation and the subsequent disruption to learning**. I have attached a link below and will inform you of any changes should they happen. The key information is:

- The removal of bubbles (beginning with Year 6/7 Summer school)
- Self-isolation will be managed by NHS Test and Trace. Close contacts will be asked to take a PCR test.
- Schools will operate an Outbreak Management plan (from 1 September 2021) to respond should an outbreak (several cases within 14 days) occur.
- Staff and students should continue twice weekly testing across the summer and, on return, until the end of September 2021.
- Mandatory school attendance regulations resume in full.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>



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Communications with school during the summer

During the summer break we will still be posting stories and information relevant to our school and we will be monitoring communications should anyone wish to seek **advice, support or guidance** on a school related issue. Please be advised that there **may be a delay in responses** across this period due to holidays and staff availability.

The following email addresses are for direct communications with pastoral/year teams:

transition2021@sws.cheshire.sch.uk

ks3@sws.cheshire.sch.uk

ks4@sws.cheshire.sch.uk

Our social media platforms are:

@SWS_School and @PrincipalSWS1 – Twitter

facebook.com/SWSschool

<https://www.sirwilliamstanier.co.uk> – Link to our website

I hope that the information above is helpful and gives you a balance of detail and a sense of the positive direction the school is moving in. We will continue to send out key details towards the start of term but please don't hesitate to ask us any questions using the contact details stated in this letter.

At Easter, I wrote to you saying we should expect further disruption in the summer term but that we have taken some significant learning from the pandemic that will make us a better school. Relative to other school populations, we did well to minimise disruption up until the final week. This is a credit to everyone in working hard to keep people safe. The learning we have taken from this period is emerging in the priorities that we have identified and the way our school community responded positively to the changes we started implementing in June. We have a platform here, not only to recover lost learning, but to make this **the great school that we have the potential to be** and one that our entire community deserves.

All that is left for me to do is to thank you sincerely for your continued support. All of us at school have appreciated the messages we have had sent in. This is really powerful for a group of people who have the singular objective of trying to make a positive difference to children's lives.

I wish you a safe and happy summer break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J Fraser", written in a cursive style.

Jason Fraser
Principal