

4th September 2020



Newsletter – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to see so many of our students this week return to school. We have now had half of our school cohort return, back into lessons with their teachers and working in their examination subjects. It was also really nice to finally meet our New Year 7 students who have started amazingly well in these difficult times.

When our students returned, each year group had a virtual assembly with their tutor explaining how each individual 'bubble' works, where they are located and how refreshments can be purchased. We do strongly recommend that students bring with them their own food and water as although the cafes are still providing light refreshments, the cafes and food outlets are specifically for one year group at a time in each break. This allows for the areas to be cleaned and prepared for the next year group in the following break. This has worked exceptionally well this week and our students have been impeccable.

From next week, we will begin to stagger the departures of our students from school at 2.55pm with two year groups at a time. This will be to ensure safe social distancing as our students leave. It will not be necessary to do this in the morning as transport begins to arrive from 8.00am and arrivals take place until 8.45 when gates are closed. It is extremely important to ensure that all students arrive on time, with their own learning kit as equipment cannot be shared or loaned out. This was outlined in my previous communication to you all.

We understand that parents will still want to pick up and drop off students in the morning and afternoon. In the morning, the arrival of buses makes the turning circle very busy and we would ask that drop offs take place after 8.30 when they have all arrived. After school on Monday to Thursday, the buses will have usually departed by 3.20pm and by 1.40pm on a Friday. Please could I ask that you try to use these times to avoid any unnecessary congestion.

We wrote to you recently to say we have changed our Behaviour for Learning Policy for this academic year. Part of the reason for these changes is to focus on effective teaching and learning so that all our students get the best education possible to catch up on anything they may have missed during the period of lockdown. As such, there are a few things that you need to be aware of so that you can reiterate the assemblies and notifications that have been disseminated to staff, governors and our students:



POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial

Firstly, we have introduced a zero tolerance approach with regards to mobile phones (including electronic devices such as air-pods). Mobile phones are not permitted on school site at all and if they are seen, heard or used, our students will be sent to our Internal Exclusion room for a day.

Another major change links to our C1 expectations in the classroom. In order for our staff to teach effectively, we will remove any student causing a disruption to the learning for themselves and for others. Our students will have two warnings to reset the expectations and if they fail to adhere to these; they will be removed from class and taken to our Internal Exclusion room for the remainder of the day. We have attached a copy of the new Behaviour for Learning Poster and the Non-negotiables for our students for reference; all of which our Governors are aware of as many of them were present for our INSET day on Tuesday this week.

Another change links to the PE lessons that our students receive. In order for us to maintain the 'bubbles' in school and to minimise the traffic through the PE changing rooms; students who have PE on their timetable for that day will be allowed to wear their kit to school and remain in this for the rest of the day. The same applies to those students who have Dance – they will be expected to wear their PE kit (not their own personal dance kit) on the days they have this subject (information about this has already been communicated to those affected).

On Monday next week, we welcome back all of our students and are looking forward to seeing Years 8, 9 and 10 and getting all into our new routines. I am sure that as the weeks progress, we will amend and review our practice and we will continue to follow all guidelines given by the Government.

I would like to say a huge thank you for the support the school has been given in the challenges we have faced. It has been greatly appreciated. We have had a really successful week and look forward to his continuing through the coming months.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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