

October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we head towards half term, I wanted to write to thank you all for your continued support since we returned back to school in September.

We have had a very successful term and have made huge improvements to our provision. Students have adapted to the changes that we have implemented since our return, and despite being very tired, continue to work hard.

Thank you for the efforts that you have made to support us with our uniform changes. We are continuing to support students who have not been able to get items so please do get in touch if you need us to help. As a reminder, non-school uniform hoodies are not allowed in school. For PE, students should wear their school hoodie or, if they do not have one, they should wear their blazer. During non-PE days, students should wear their knitted v-neck jumper under their blazer, not their hoodie.

We understand that as the days get colder, with windows and doors open, the school becomes colder too. We have to ensure that ventilation is a priority to keep students and staff safe but we have reduced the requirement to 50% of our windows open and doors propped open to ensure airflow. Our heating remains on and we will continue to monitor the conditions in school.

When the weather is wet, we do ask students to go to classrooms rather than being outside. Please remind your children that they should remain in these rooms and not be wandering around corridors (other than to get food or use the toilet) because at these times, lessons for other year groups are still taking place. We are trying to keep corridors as quiet as possible to support learning in classrooms and prioritise the safety of students. If students are not sensible in the classrooms, they may be asked to go outside.

From Monday 2nd November, the times to arrive at school will switch over for KS3 and KS4. Years 7, 8 and 9 will need to arrive at school and line up at their designated area at 8.40am. Year 10 and 11 should be in form rooms by 8.30am. Students who use school transport will continue with the same arrangements as currently. We politely ask that students do not arrive on site very early as we do not have capacity to have students in the building until the start of school.

Our new website has lots of resources that you may find useful. Our students leadership team have worked with us to make sure that the information is easy to find and relevant. Knowledge organisers are available for all subjects and all year groups. Please use these at home with your children to test their knowledge and support their learning. There is a video from our student leadership team on how the knowledge organisers can be used at home. We hope that you find this useful. There will be more of these video's to follow. If you have ideas on things that you would find it useful to have more information about, please let us know.

We have now subscribed to GCSEPod for all subjects. Please encourage your children to use this resource. It is aimed at GCSE courses but there is a lot of information and 'pods' that are relevant for younger year groups too.

Our subject staff and our support staff have worked hard to ensure that all children continue to access the full range of subjects and curriculum activities, where possible. We will continue to review these and, where possible, bring more activities in for students. We will keep you informed of progress on extracurricular activities and clubs as and when we are able to start them up again.

Students have coped well with the return to school but we have noticed how tired they have become over the last couple of weeks. Try to take some time out as a family over half term and relax. These times are physically and emotionally draining and we want our children to come back rested in November so we can have another successful half term. Our behaviour standards are high, and we expect students to be **ready**, on time and with the right equipment for school, **respectful** to each other and our staff, and **safely** work with us to ensure that we can all remain in school whilst keeping our focus on the learning. We have really valued your support on this.

Have a lovely half term. I look forward to seeing you all next half term.

Kind regards

Ms Mason
Head of School