

24th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing, as promised, with details of the arrangements for the start of the new term. We are really looking forward to seeing all the students again and to having them back in the classroom after such a long time away. We all know and accept that we will have to go about our business as a school in a very different way to what we have done in the past, but it is essential that we do everything we can to keep all the members of our school community safe whilst they are with us. The attached 'Joining Instructions' set out the main information you need to know in readiness for September – please do share them with your children.

The information starts off with a brief overview of some of the protective measures that we have put in place, just so you get a sense of what we are planning. We will share the full details of these measures with your children on the first day back so they understand how they can play their part in the school's safety systems.

The notes then go on to cover information about:

- **Travel to and from school** – whether coming by school bus, public transport, by car, cycling or walking.
- **Where students should go when they first arrive in school each morning** – this has changed from the past when students have gone to their tutor room. It is essential that they don't wander around the school, but **MUST** go to their year group arrival area.
- **School Uniform** – whilst the uniform is the same as that outlined in previous letters, we have added a couple of updates that we hope will make things slightly easier for parents.

Also, we are aware of the difficulties that Marks and Spencer's have been experiencing in getting adequate supplies of school uniform over the past few weeks. We have been assured that they are working to resolve this, with a large supply having arrived in the past few days. Some of the items need the school badge / logos etc to be embroidered but it is expected that they will be available on their website for order by the middle/end of this week.

If any parents continue to have difficulties securing correct items of uniform, please do let us know. Whilst we obviously want students to arrive looking smart and ready for the start of the school year, we don't want to add another level of anxiety on students or parents at this time.

- **Catering arrangements**
- **Essential school equipment and school books**
- **Arrangements for the end of the school day** – unfortunately it will not be possible for students to remain on site after 4.10pm each day, unless they are taking part in a supervised activity (such as an after-school revision session a club or activity).
- **What to do if you suspect that your child (or another family member) may have coronavirus**

As a reminder the starting dates for each year group are as follows:

- Monday 7th September – Years 7 and 10
- Tuesday 8th September – all other year groups

We will be in contact with any further updates as needed. It just remains for me to say how much we are looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks' time.

Best wishes



A R Blackburn (Mr)
Headteacher