19th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are coming to the end of one of the most challenging academic years we have experienced and I need to start by thanking all parents and carers for your support and understanding. You have been fulsome in your praise for staff during lockdown and in our remote provision, as well as for the lengths to which staff in organising and administering the TAGs process for year 11. Where you felt that there are areas in school where we could improve or make adjustments, you have responded in surveys, spoken to us or emailed the school and I want to thank you for your feedback. I am so grateful that you feel that you can put forward your views so that we can ensure that we move forward together as a school community. This is such a strength of our school and something I would like to develop further next year.

I know that many of you have been frustrated by the COVID restrictions and the impact this has had on your daughters, particularly limitations on freedom of movement in school and on extra-curricular activities. This term, staff have worked diligently to ensure that educational visits and other extra-curricular activities have gone ahead wherever possible, with COVID risk assessments, and I know, from talking to them and hearing from you, how much your daughters have enjoyed and benefited from these.

We are planning to return to the traditional school day in September and we have included details of this below, as well as an outline of arrangements for the start of term (overleaf). However, as you will have read in the media, the return to ‘normality’ looks uncertain and we will update you at the end of August, in case there are any changes to our current plans.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy summer break and I look forward to seeing your daughters again in the Autumn term.

Yours faithfully



Helen Marriott

**End of term arrangements on Thursday 22nd July:**

Although I outlined arrangements in the Greensheet on the 9th July, I wanted to confirm the following for this Thursday:

All students attend at their usual time, e.g. year 7 at 8.20, year 8 at 8.35, year 9 at 8.45 and year 10 at 9.20.

Dismissal on Thursday will be as follows:

* Year 7: 12.20 - main gate
* Year 8: 12.20 - side gate
* Year 9: 12.30 - main gate
* Year 10: 12.30 - side gate

**Test and Trace:**

I wrote to you on Friday to inform you that, as of 19th of July, NHS Test and Trace have now taken over this function from schools and will liaise with parents to identify close contacts. Whilst we are still in school, it is important that parents still report their child’s absence due to COVID symptoms, both for attendance purposes, and so that we can take any necessary action to isolate contacts.

**Arrangements for the Autumn term:**

As you will be aware, the Department for Education have asked all schools to administer lateral flow tests on site to all students prior to their return to school, resulting in a slightly delayed start to the term. We have prioritised year groups taking GCSE courses and the new year 7s who have missed their induction programme this summer. A letter outlining exact timings of the tests for your child will be sent out nearer the time. There is also a permission form to be completed by parents / carers. Students will come to school for their appointment time and leave immediately afterwards in order that we can safely identify any positive cases prior to all students being in school.

The arrangements will be as follows:

**Wednesday 1st September**: Staff INSET day

**Thursday 2nd September:**

* Year 7 testing: 8.30 - 11
* Year 11 testing: 11.30 - 2
* Year 10 testing: 2 – 4

**Exact timings for form groups will be confirmed in a separate email.**

**Friday 3rd September: Week B**

**Years 7, 10 and 11 who have a negative test will be in lessons; years 8 and 9 will come into school for tests and then leave immediately afterwards.**

**Testing arrangements**

* Year 9 testing: 8.30 - 11.30
* Year 8 testing; 11.30 - 1.30

**Exact timings for form groups will be confirmed in a separate email.**

**School Day for years 7, 10 and 11**

Year 7:

* Arrival at 8.30 - main entrance on Church Hill
* Students to be in tutor groups by 8.45
* Depart: 3.30.
* Girls will spend the morning with tutor groups, getting to know each other, and becoming familiar with timetables and school routines. There will be an extended lunch, and some lessons afterwards.

Years 10 and 11:

* Girls will arrive at 8.50 at the main entrance on Church Hill
* 9.00: tutor groups
* Depart: 3.30.
* The day will consist of an extended tutor time, issuing of timetables, assembly, lunch and lessons. Students do not require subject books but should bring their pencil case.

**Monday 6th September: Induction / PSHE Day**

We had originally intended to hold an Induction Day for year 7 and a PSHE day for other year groups on their first day back but this is not now possible because of the testing arrangements. We are therefore postponing the activities until Monday 6th September so that all students can benefit.

**Activities will run according to the usual school day (8.45 - 3.30). Please note that students should arrive ten minutes beforehand so they can be ready and in their classrooms by 8.45.**

**Year 7:**

The day is designed to enable careful induction which covers team building, friendships, inclusive relationships, celebrating difference and how to manage disagreements. Additionally, there will be learning about online behaviours, risks, consequences and how to manage this safely. The learning will be led by tutors.

**Years 8 – 11:**

During the student consultation on the new Healthy Relationships and Sexual Education Programme of Learning, students expressed concerns about missed learning. This day is being used to focus on PSHE and missed learning using lessons from the previous year’s Scheme of Learning, which students have expressed are vital.

**Tuesday 7th September:** Timetabled lessons - **Week A**