



11th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update – Autumn Term 1

At the end of our first full week, I wanted to provide an update and share some important reminders. I shall not necessarily write every week, like I did during lockdown, but I shall endeavour to communicate regularly as the term progresses.

Attendance & Punctuality

I must firstly congratulate all students and staff for their positivity, engagement and excellent attitude as we have made our full return this week. I have been delighted that attendance has been above 97% this week – a clear sign that students want to be back at school and that there is real confidence in the arrangements we have made to ensure a safe and secure environment. All students should continue to attend every day, unless they or someone in their household are displaying coronavirus symptoms. It is vitally important that students arrive at the correct time each day: **7.50am – 8.15am for Years 7-9** (in Tutor Rooms by 8.20am) and **9.00am – 9.25am for Years 10-13** (in Period 2 lessons by 9.30am). Students who arrive late cannot easily be admitted without disturbing other “bubbles” and so parents’ support in ensuring prompt arrival would be much appreciated.

Focus on Learning

As the week has progressed, I have enjoyed seeing students engaged in lessons and re-establishing good routines. Over the coming days and weeks, teachers will ascertain where students are in their learning (without immediate formal assessment) and support them to bridge any gaps that may have emerged. We shall continue to identify and focus on areas that need support. For students, the most important thing will be to continue to attend each day with a positive attitude and a determination to do one’s best – by listening to the advice of their teachers and engaging fully with all learning opportunities, they will get back on track more quickly and maximise their success.

Uniform

Students are looking very smart – thank you for your support with this. I understand that some Year 11 students are still waiting for their new ties to arrive. In the meantime, they should wear their old tie and we expect all students to be in full correct uniform by the end of next week.

Pre-Ordering Lunch

Our system worked well this week, although students must remember to collect their pre-ordered lunches at morning break. Orders can be placed by clicking on the link under the Parents tab on the website – by midday on Thursday for the following week. Please remember to tell your child that you have ordered lunch for them. Students are also encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle.

Face Coverings & Public Transport

I would be grateful if parents would remind students that, in the interest of public health, it is a legal requirement to wear a face covering whilst using public transport and in shops. We expect all students to adhere to this requirement and, in doing so, demonstrate consideration for others in the community. It is also important to note that some bus services are designated for school use only and some are designated for non-school use – students must follow these instructions.

Traffic

It is understandable that in this first week of term, the roads in the immediate vicinity of the Collegiate have been busy at certain times. However, the congestion cannot be an excuse for blocking our neighbours' driveways or dangerous driving – the speed limit is 20mph. The staggered start and finish times should allow more students to use public transport, walk or cycle to school – we would encourage this. I understand that, in the current climate, some parents may prefer to drop/pick up by car but, in such cases, I would ask again that students are dropped off/picked up at some distance from the Collegiate (at the bottom of the hill) and that they walk for the remainder of their journey.

“Rule of Six”

From Monday, it will be against the law for groups of six or more people to gather socially indoors or outdoors. Whilst schools are exempt from this rule, students will need to be aware of this requirement which will apply at any time when they are out of school. Please take time to explain the rule and its importance in trying to limit contacts and control the spread of the virus.

Visitors

Thank you for your understanding with regards to our current policy on visitors. Please note that this means that we are not able to receive any forgotten items from parents during the day which makes it even more important for students to ensure that they have everything they need before they leave for school.

Open Events

In the current circumstances, we shall not be operating any face-to-face Open Events at this time for prospective Year 7 students and parents. Our [online prospectus](#) is currently available and we shall be adding other digital material to this content soon to help prospective students and parents get to know us better and make a well-informed decision about their application to secondary school.

And finally...

I want to thank all students, staff and parents for their contribution towards a very successful first week of term. I particularly want to congratulate Year 7 students for the brilliant first impression they have made – a great sign for what we can expect over the next 7 years. We knew that this September would be like no previous September but what has been the same is the excitement of a new academic year, the enthusiasm with which everyone is embracing the opportunities and the happiness we all feel at being together again. Next week will be Week B of the timetable, at the end of which we will have completed our first fortnightly cycle and students should be well-accustomed to their new routines. I look forward to the term progressing as successfully as it has started.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal