



Headteacher
Mr James Down

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Dear Parents,

We have finally reached the end of the most challenging and extraordinary school year. Our students and staff have been outstanding as they have had to adapt and respond to new ways of teaching and learning. I would like to thank all parents for their patience and support during this year, and we know you will share in our desire for things to return to normal as quickly as possible.

Start of 2021/22 Academic Year

At the time of writing, our plan is to operate the school as normal from September.

- **Wednesday 8th September** - First Day to school for students in Year 7, 11, 12 & 13
- **Thursday 9th September** - First Day back to school for students in Year 8, 9 & 10

The Department for Education has directed all secondary school aged children to complete two onsite Covid-19 tests before they return to school in the autumn. Given the extensive building programme being completed in school we are in negotiations with the DFE and Department for Public Health to see if these tests can be completed by students at home rather than in school. We are likely to hear the outcome of this request over the summer holidays. If our request is declined there will be changes to the start dates for students as we will need to stagger the return to school for students. We will write to parents to confirm arrangements for the start of term at the end of August. We will also update our website and social media channels with information for parents.

Building Project Update

The summer holiday is going to be a really busy time as contractors work to finish some key parts of our building programme. The entire programme will be completed by April 2022, so there is still some way to go, but students and staff should be able to start using some of the new facilities in September. We are currently pursuing another capital funding opportunity of £1 million, which would bring even further improvements to our school facilities. We will keep parents updated in the autumn on the progress we are making on that front.

Communication with school

During the first two weeks of the summer holidays our wifi network is undergoing a £55,000 upgrade. This means there will be no access to any of our online systems or communication channels during this time. We apologise for any inconvenience this will cause.

New School Uniform Lines

Over the summer holidays our official school uniform supplier - Pro Direct Soccer will be adding a number of new optional items of PE kit to our school uniform page. Please check these out at the end of August.

Staff Leavers

At the end of this term we say goodbye to the following staff:

- Miss Deeley Tucker - Behaviour Mentor
- Mrs Hunt - Head of Performing Arts
- Mrs Schmitt - Head of MFL
- Mrs Smith - Teacher of English
- Miss Tompkins - Teacher of English

We also say a special goodbye today to Mrs Burnie, who is a member of our catering team. Mrs Burnie has worked in the school for 27 years! We give thanks for the service she has given to this school community.

We wish all staff who are leaving us the very best in their future careers or retirement. In September we will be writing to introduce our new members of staff.

Finally...

Can I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer. Let's hope the good weather continues and we can enjoy this amazing part of the world that we live in.

Yours sincerely,



Mr James Down
Headteacher