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Thursday 2nd July 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE END OF SUMMER TERM AND THE START OF THE AUTUMN TERM

We have been delighted to welcome back our Year 10 and 12 students to school over the last couple of weeks. We have been pleased with attendance and it is great to see so many faces again. Before we break for the summer, we are really keen to also see the boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 so we are making arrangements for them to come into school in the last week of the term. The purpose of this letter is to let you know about this and other arrangements for the end of the summer term as well as letting you know our plans for the start of the new school year in September.

Staff Professional Day: Online Learning and Equalities Training - Monday 13th July

We postponed the staff professional day on 1st June so that we could continue onsite provision and enable staff to support remote learning. This professional day will now take place on Monday 13th July which means that there will be no live lessons, tutorials or onsite provision for students on this day. Staff will engage in two important aspects of professional development: Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion and Developing Online Learning. The importance of work in both these areas has been highlighted in recent months. Ensuring that we have an inclusive curriculum that deeply educates about and celebrates diversity is an equalities objective of the school. We must continually take positive action to ensure real equality of opportunity and, that as a community we understand deeply the impact of what has happened in the past and its legacy in the present.

Years 7, 8 and 9

We are arranging for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to have a one-to-one meeting with their tutor in the final week of term. These meetings will be scheduled from Tuesday 14th until Thursday 16th July. These meetings will provide an opportunity for students to reconnect with school and to discuss their wellbeing and experiences of learning from home. Students will review their progress up until March and their tutor will discuss the support they might need to return to school in September. We will send you appointment times.

Year 10

As a result of the staff professional day on Monday 13th and to enable students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to come into school, we are asking Year 10 to work independently at home for the last week of term. This is so teachers have the capacity to support students in Years 7, 8 and 9 onsite and Year 12 onsite and online.

Year 11 – exam results day, Thursday 20th August and marking the end of Key Stage 4

Given the situation this year we have changed the arrangements for students collecting their examination results this summer. Rather than coming into school to collect results, we will email results to students on the morning of Thursday 20th August. We will organise a one-to-one meeting for all Year 11 students to meet a member of staff on the same day. Mr Scott will email the times for these meetings nearer the time.

We normally mark and celebrate the end of Key Stage 4 with an awards and presentation evening at the end of June at the end of the GCSE exams. As you know, we were not able to mark this milestone in the same way. Our plan is to have a celebration event in the autumn term for all current Year 11 students, their parents and carers. When we know more about the arrangements for next term, we will fix a date!

New Year 7 - summer school

The annual summer school for our new Year 7 students moving from primary school is going ahead but it will be in a slightly different form to take account of current restrictions. Mr Altmann will write to new parents and carers with information in the next week. We do hope that most of our new Year 7 boys will be able to attend.

Sixth form

The arrangements for sixth form will be communicated in separate letters.

Arrangements for the new school year – September 2020

None of us know yet what the situation will be in September, so we are planning for a number of different scenarios. The Government's ambition is to bring back all students full time from September and we are planning for this. At the moment, we are expecting to **welcome all students back on Thursday 3rd September. New Year 7 and Year 12 will start the day at 8.30** and we will be inviting students in **Years 8, 9, 10, and 11 at midday**. We plan to start teaching timetabled lessons on Friday 4th September, with new Year 7 and 12 starting at 8.30 and other Year groups at 9.45.

Should the guidance change, we are prepared. Other scenarios include having only half our students in school for face to face teaching at any one time; this sort of arrangement would be necessary if social distancing needs to remain in place. We are focused on making adaptations which will keep everybody safe on site and we will follow Government guidance when it is published.

We will keep you updated should Government guidance change about the opening of secondary schools in September.

Uniform - blazers

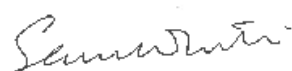
As you will know, school uniform normally includes a blazer. However, given the need for exceptionally good personal hygiene and clothes that are easy to clean along with the financial constraints many families are facing we have decided that a school blazer will not be a uniform requirement in September. We will review this decision once the situation with Covid-19 has settled down.

Computers and internet access

The school is considering ways that it can secure suitable laptops for all students regardless of their family financial situation and looking at how this can be financed. To this end, I am very pleased to let you know that WESPA, William Ellis School Parents Association, have started a fundraising initiative to seek donations to support this cause. They have a target to raise £30,000. I am wishing them lots of luck with this, and they have an impressive fundraising record. Please see if you can help them reach this target.

As ever, I finish with sending my very best wishes to you all and your wider family and friends. Please continue to support each other and show consideration and kindness to others. I also remind you again not to hesitate in contacting us if you think we can be of support.

Yours sincerely,



Sam White