



Tuesday 25th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you to give you a final update on how the school will open in September.

Following on from the letter to parents/carers on 13th July, we now have everything in place for the school to reopen for all students.

- On Tuesday 1st September the school will be open for staff professional development, therefore, no students will be expected on site.
- Students in the **new Years 7, 12 and 13** will return on Wednesday 2nd September.
- Students in the **new Years 8, 9, 10, 11** will return on Thursday 3rd September. All students will be in school as of this day.
- Just a reminder that there will be a staggered start to the school day and different year groups will enter the school building via different entry points. Members of staff will direct students on arrival to the main school gates. Please could we remind parents not to park close to the school gates.
- Arrival times are:
 - Year 7, 8:30am
 - Year 8, 8:30am
 - Year 9, 8:40am
 - Year 10, 8:40am
 - Year 11, 8:50am
 - Years 12/13, 8:50am
- Also, a reminder that there will be a staggered end to the school day for different year groups.
- Departure times are:
 - Year 7, 14:50pm
 - Year 8, 14:50pm
 - Year 9, 14:55pm
 - Year 10, 14:55pm
 - Year 11, 15:00pm
 - Years 12/13, 15:00pm
- Students will, initially, follow a two-week timetable which they will be given when they return. This is to limit the movement of students around the school site. The two-week timetable is in fact, an adaptation of the one-week timetable that we have prepared and we will revert to, as soon as we are able. Lessons will be much longer, and this will dramatically reduce movement and interactions around the school, as required in the guidance. We will be able to move directly back to a normal timetable as soon as we are able.

There are some practicalities that we would ask you to consider and discuss again with your children:

- There will be no offering of food or drink at break time (students will have a staggered break time in designated areas). If students wish to, they can bring a snack and a bottle of water to school. Students must not bring fizzy or energy drinks into school.
- Please do NOT allow students to bring into school food of any kind that contains nuts. We have a number of students that are highly allergic to these.
- In the first two-weeks, the lunch menu will consist of sandwiches, salad boxes, pasta boxes, biscuits and drinks. The menu has been carefully reviewed to ensure it is well-balanced, has a range of options and provides value for money.
- If your child is going to buy food at school, please ensure they have enough money on the school system to pay for this (payments via Parent Pay).
- Students must come to school fully prepared to learn by bringing the correct equipment with them. They will not be able to borrow equipment from their friends or the teacher.

School uniform

We are aware that there have been issues regarding the distribution of school uniform and have endeavoured to be in contact with Emblematic as and when a parent/carer has informed us of an issue, but we know that some parents are still waiting on their orders. Please bear in mind that our supplier has had to move to a mail order business due to the pandemic and like many other UK businesses, is operating under unprecedented circumstances and demand to fulfil orders. We understand and share your frustrations, but we must be pragmatic, therefore if a student does not arrive in the full school uniform because of distribution issues – they are not to worry! No one will be penalised for this. Please either send them in whatever school uniform you have or suitable, sensible clothing until the correct uniform arrives.

In closing, we do hope that we get back to 'normality' soon, but until then, we will do all we can to ensure students get the best possible educational experience and pastoral care. As ever, thank you for your continued support and patience.

With every good wish,

Dr J Gorlach
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Mr D Stewart
Head of School