

Headteacher's Update: 21st July 2020

Dear parents and carers

Well, I'm not quite sure how to describe this year! Challenging? Certainly for some people, and probably for most of us at times. Interesting? Possibly. Bizarre? Without a doubt.

One thing is for certain though: as a community, we have stuck together extraordinarily well. I have been thanking parents and carers throughout the lockdown for your support and understanding, and I remain incredibly grateful for this. We know we haven't got everything right since 20th March, but I do know that staff have worked extremely hard, and the huge number of positive messages we have received has really made a big difference in helping to keep us all going. Thank you all very much.

Most importantly, on the whole and considering the very difficult circumstances, students seem to have coped very well with remote learning. The recent assessments seem to reinforce this and, with hard work next year, there is no reason to think we can't catch up any lost learning. We should all feel optimistic about the new school year.

This will be my last update for a while. There are a number of letters that this update links to, especially for KS4 and KS5 students, so please do read them all carefully. I expect to send another update towards the end of August with a few final details in preparation for the new school year. In the meantime, I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

- If you haven't already seen the letter from myself and the Chair of Governors, Mrs Green, about our **plans for re-opening** to all students in September, please [click here](#).
- Please note, as set out in this letter, that we will have a **staggered start in September**, as follows:
 - Monday 7th September = Years 7 and 12 only
 - Tuesday 8th September = Years 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 only
 - Wednesday 9th September = All students back in school.
- Please note that some of the **bus times** for the end of the day next year have changed slightly to allow for a little more staggering of departure times. [Click here](#) for the latest timetable.
- Please [click here](#) for the latest edition of the **school newsletter**, containing lots of brilliant stories about what students have been getting up to.
- There will not be any online lessons tomorrow, but there are **end-of-assemblies** for each year group via Zoom at the following times:
 - Year 7 – 9am
 - Year 8 – 9.45am
 - Year 9 – 10.30am
 - Year 10 – 11.15am
 - 6th form – 10am
- Please [click here](#) for a letter from Mrs Feast to Year 11 parents about **leavers hoodies** for students.
- Please [click here](#) for a letter to **Year 12 students** from Mrs Jennings about a few different issues.
- Please click the links here for letters about collecting exam results this summer:
 - [GCSE results day for Year 11 students](#)

- [A level results day for Year 13 students](#)
- [GCSE English Literature results for Year 10 students](#)
- Please [click here](#) for a letter from Mrs Feast relating to **Year 10 students** who may want to spend some time over the summer consolidating learning from the lockdown period.
- In fantastic news, the **3G pitch** will (finally!) be ready for use by the end of this week. We will be holding a proper opening ceremony in the autumn, but for now I just want to once again thank everyone who supported this project. It will be an absolutely fantastic facility for the whole community and we are very excited about it!
- Please [click here](#) for a letter from Mr Hampton, Head of PE, about appropriate **footwear for the new 3G pitch**.
- We will be back in full **uniform** next year. Please see the notes at the end of this update for some reminders about particular elements of uniform policy; we do not want to waste any time battling with students in September who have chosen to turn up incorrectly dressed.
- Please remember that our policy for **mobile phones** is changing next year for students in years 7–11. If a child does bring an electronic device with them to school, it must be switched off and stored safely and securely in their school bag or else it will be confiscated. Please note that this includes **smart watches**.
- For those doing the **Duke of Edinburgh**, a reminder that the deadline for students to have uploaded all three Assessor Reports and completed their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections on eDofE in order for them to receive the interim DofE Certificate of Achievement is the last day of term: **Wednesday 22nd July**. This certificate recognises participants' achievements in these 3 sections in light of the postponement of expeditions, which we are still hoping will take place once trips and visits are up and running again. We hope that participants will still choose to complete their expeditions when things resume and subsequently receive their full DofE Award certificate and badge in addition to this one.

Uniform reminders from Mr Thompson

1. All students must be in shoes, not trainers or trainer-style shoes. Shoes must be black, plain in style and polishable. Boots, pumps, canvas shoes or anything with a logo are not permitted.
2. All coats must be dark in colour. **More than ever it will important to have a suitable coat for school next year. In order to keep everyone safe students will need to stay outside at both break and lunchtime as much as possible.**
3. Hair should be neat and conventional with no extremes of style/colour. No haircuts shorter than a grade 2 are allowed. If a student wishes to have a different hairstyle during the holidays, please make sure they leave sufficient time for it to grow or return to natural colouring in time for the start of school.
4. No visible body piercings, irrespective of when the piercing was done. Students need to bear this in mind if they do choose to get any piercings over the holidays.
5. Make-up must be discreet, nails must be short and unadorned. No gel, extensions or jewels. Clear nail varnish only. Eyebrows and eyelashes should be natural, no fake eyelashes.
6. Plain black formal trousers that hold a crease. Jeans style, cords or canvas trousers are not acceptable and nor are exceptionally baggy or tight-fitting trousers.