



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the summer break enters its final weeks, I wanted to reconnect with our parents, carers and young people ahead of our return to school on 3rd and 4th September. Below you will find key reminders for families that will support a smooth return to learning in September.



## Staggered Return to School in September

Years 7, 10 and 11 will return on Wednesday 3rd September at 8.30am. The school day will end at 2.15pm.

All year groups will attend school on Thursday 4th September at 8.30am. The school day will end at 3.15pm.



## Our Top Five – Working with School

The partnership between school and home is crucial if we are to get the best for our young people. We are always open to hearing the views of our parents and welcome you to contact us at any point. We do ask that if you disagree with school decision making that you challenge us privately, rather than on public platforms, so that we can work together to find a solution. We are consistently reinforcing messages with our learners around the appropriate use of social media and your support in modelling positive and respectful behaviour in this arena is incredibly important.



Below are our 'Top Five' areas of school life where we believe the partnership between school and home is key to success. When parents support us daily with these it helps to ensure a calm and purposeful learning environment where every one of our learners can achieve their very best and enjoy their experience of school.



1. Attendance. Quite simply our best attenders get the best results – attendance matters and every day counts. Please support us by taking a strong approach to attendance, our pastoral teams are well placed to support with any issues you may need our help with.
2. Punctuality. Learners should be through the gate by 8.30am and should go straight to form rooms. Those that arrive after registration is over receive an unauthorised absence for their morning session -they also miss valuable messages and support during this time.
3. Learning. Visit our website to find out what is being covered in class. Test key knowledge from the knowledge organisers that every learner in KS3 carries with them.
4. Uniform. Our uniform policy is clear, agreed by governors and is available on our website. Teens will tell you that 'everyone else' wears variations on our uniform – I would like to reassure that they don't and that staff will be following up robustly on uniform standards. Please do not be swayed on trainers, piercings, Lycra flairs and hoodies / sweatshirts.
5. Mobile Phones. These should be off and away in school - all day – every day. Our most significant challenge with mobile phones is parents calling (or responding to) their children during the school day. This is never OK. Please use school communication systems.

If we achieved 100% parental support on these five key issues it would make a significant difference to the progress and experience of every learner. Further details on uniform and attendance can be found below.

## Attendance

Our school target is a minimum of 97% attendance to school. Students who fall below this figure are monitored closely by their pastoral team. If attendance drops below this, you may receive communication home to inform you that we have concerns. **If a student's attendance falls below 90% they are considered to be persistently absent.** 90% may sound like a positive figure, however in terms





of attendance this equates to a half day absence each week – over the course of a school career this could equate to half a year of learning lost. Encourage your child to try their best to attend every day – they should only stay at home if they are genuinely too ill to attend or if there is a serious unavoidable situation.

If your child is going to be absent, please make sure that someone has contacted school to explain the reason. **You should contact via Arbor using the 'Log Absence' function on your child's record or you can telephone school on 01942 814122 Option 1. Please report as early as possible on each morning of absence.** You can expect that school staff may want to visit your child at home if the absence continues or if they have had a pattern of absence which has previously raised concern. Welfare checks of this kind are a standard part of our safeguarding procedures in school and so we ask for your support if staff do come out to visit. Wherever possible please arrange routine medical appointments for outside the school day and remember that, in line with national guidance, we will not authorise absence for holidays taken during term time.

## Uniform

The overwhelming majority of learners wear our uniform with pride, and we are grateful for parental support on this. It is our ambition to further improve standards of uniform in September. When uniform is at its best in our school, so are learning and behaviour. We wanted to be clear on the expectations before closing for the summer. Our full guidance on uniform can be found on the school website [here](#). Key points to note regarding uniform are:

- every student must wear school shoes and not black trainers. If the footwear is made by a sports brand, it will be deemed to be a trainer.
- every student must wear a tie.
- one ear piercing in each ear is permitted. Nose rings are not allowed.
- false eye lashes and nails are not allowed.
- make-up and hair colour must be natural looking and subtle.
- trousers should be a regular fit.
- skirts should be of modest length and be worn with black opaque tights.
- hoodies must not be brought to school and will be confiscated at the gate.

I ask, that parents do not allow piercings and extreme hair styles during the summer break if there is no time to remedy / remove these before the start of term.

You will have seen in the press that an increasing number of schools are moving to a trousers only policy. I do not wish to become a trousers only school, but the push back on skirt length and wearing of tights may force my hand as we move through the year. When it is too warm for tights tailored shorts and trousers are the appropriate substitution. **\*From September when tights are provided by the school a charge will be added to ParentPay accounts**

## A Warm welcome

Finally, a very warm welcome to our families who have learners joining us in Year 7. They will be nervous and excited. They will be fine. We will look after them. If you have any early worries, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N S Coe  
Headteacher