



20 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. Thank you for your support and cooperation during this last term with the enforced bouts of isolation and the challenges these have presented for us.

We are looking ahead to September and hopefully, a return to our normal routines and procedures. I am just letting you know of the arrangements we are putting in place for the start of term. These plans have had to be altered slightly to take into account lateral flow testing for incoming Year 7 students and I am writing separately to this cohort to explain these arrangements.

Staff return to school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Year 12 students attend from 12.30pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, for the afternoon. Year 12 next attend on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, from 9am. The whole school commences on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The times of the school day have changed slightly from September with the school day commencing at 8.30am for all students and finishing at 3pm. We will not have a staggered start or finish to the day any longer, but will keep a staggered morning and lunch break during the day to help with movement around the site and queues in the canteen.

Form time will remain at mid-morning which means registration for school will be via the register taken in lesson one at 8.30am. We have always emphasized the need for being punctual to school and you will appreciate that valuable learning time will continue to be lost if students are late to school.

We will be hosting Year 7 on site to undertake lateral flow tests on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September before they commence their new term. All other year groups are required to undertake testing before they return in September to ensure they are not positive for Covid. We have had to trust that students and families have been undertaking their regular testing since March and that this continues. To help with this process, we will be issuing further testing kits to students this week. Thank you in advance for your help and support with this process.

Please do ensure you have your families have an enjoyable and relaxing break and we obviously look forward to our full community coming back together in September. Attached to this letter is a copy of our Uniform and Appearance policy. Please do ensure that your child is in the correct uniform/business dress for the new term. Staff here at school want to focus on supporting our young people to learn effectively and do not want to be drawn into avoidable conversations about

incorrect uniform or missing equipment. Parents have chosen our school, knowing our rules and expectations and I have to rely on your support and cooperation in this respect at all times.

Please remember mobile phones are banned items at our school for students in Year 7 through to Year 11 and again, I expect your support and cooperation with ensuring this rule is adhered to.

As you know, our term ends on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Year 7 and 9 will be leaving school at 11.45am and Years 8, 10, and 12 will leave at 12 noon.

Thank you for your ongoing support with our mission here at our school. It has been an incredibly challenging year but we have managed to be successful because of the cooperation and support of our fabulous students and you, their parents and carers.

With every good wish

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niamh Arnull', written in a cursive style.

Niamh Arnull  
Headteacher