

MN/LD July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Congratulations to all of our students, staff and families on reaching the end of what has been another incredibly disrupted and different academic year. We have been very very proud of how our community has adapted and coped with the demands of the pandemic and it has been lovely to complete the summer term with only minor disruptions.

We were delighted to be able to welcome our incoming Year 7 students to Redmoor for a brief induction. After not thinking we would be able to meet them at all, it was fantastic to see them and give them a little taste of secondary school life. Obviously, we will amend our plans for the first day back to provide more of the induction process normally covered in July. Thank you also to the parents who joined our "Meet the Tutor" Zoom meeting which went very well.

When we return for the Autumn Term we fully intend that Redmoor will be operating in as normal a way as possible and students will have a full and uninterrupted experience of secondary school. This will include events focused on the crucial role parents play in supporting students to settle at school and be successful in their academic and personal development. These events will include;

Thurs 2nd Sept.	GCSE information evening for parents of Year 10 & 11 students
Thurs 9th Sept.	'How we learn at Redmoor' - Year 7 & 8 information evening
Weds 15th Sept.	Year 11 parents evening (the first of two for Yr 11)
Weds 13th October	Years 7 & 10 'Meet the Tutor' evening
Weds 24th October	Year 9 parents evening (in preparation for GCSE options evening in January)

However, we have been informed this week that there is a requirement for secondary schools to test all students on site for Covid19 when they start back for the Autumn Term and students have to receive two tests, 3-5 days apart but can return if the first test is negative. ***This will inevitably delay the start of term slightly for some year groups*** as we do not have the staffing or site capacity to test all students at once and we are not permitted to start the testing in the week before. We are currently working on a schedule for this and will communicate this to you during the summer break.

As we return to school operating fully, there will be some changes to the school day and our routines that will come into place from the start of the new academic year. Some of these will revert to pre-Covid expectations (all Year groups starting at 8.40am) and some will continue with Covid-influenced procedures that have been beneficial (split break times and designated tutor areas).

Structure of the day

	Arrival	Tutor	P1	Break	P2	P3	Lunch	P4	P5
KS3 (Yr. 7/8/9)	8.35	8:40-9	9-10	10- 10.20	10.20-11.20	11.20 - 12.20	12.20-1	1 - 2	2 - 3
	Arrival	Tutor	P1	P2	Break	P3	P4	Lunch	P5
KS4 (Yr 10/11)	8.35	8:40-9	9-10	10 - 11	11 - 11.20	11.20 - 12.20	12.20 - 1.20	1.20 - 2pm	2 - 3

Tutor Bases, Break Areas & Entrances

	Tutor Base Area	Entry into school	Break/Lunch areas
Year 7	History x 3 Science labs x 3	Science/History PE entrance	Hall & outside (playground) Old KS4 area - no food quiet study area
Year 8	English corridor x 6	Exams and English corridor	Zone & outside (playground) Old KS4 area - no food quiet study area
Year 9	C Block x 4/ B Block x 2 (downstairs)	C Block/ B Block	Zone & Helix (old Gallery) & Outside (playground) Old KS4 area - no food quiet study area
Year 10	B Block x 6	B Block	Hall and outside (playground) Old KS4 area - no food quiet study area
Year 11	Languages Corridor x7	Behaviour Support/ Languages entrances	Zone & outside (playground) Old KS4 area - no food quiet study area

Homework

We will be supplementing the use of student planners with an online process for setting and recording homework next year, using our existing class charts system. This means that both students and parents will be able to see all their homework for every subject from their smartphone or other device. Details of this will be shared at the start of term.

Expectations

We continue to have the highest expectations of our students at all times, whether in lessons, at social time or on their way to and from school. These expectations cover their attitudes and efforts, their interactions with staff and each other and of course, their uniform and appearance. Reinforcing and sustaining these high and reasonable expectations not only contribute to student success and development but also prepare them for the adult world. There are a couple of areas where we feel we could be more consistent since returning to school after the second lockdown at the end of March. These include;

- Appearance: students are allowed 1 small stud earring in each year and no other piercings are to be worn at school. If they have other piercings, they must be removed. A watch is allowed but no rings or bracelets. Hair colour must be natural and make-up discreet.
- Mobile phones: we continue to monitor the impact of mobile phones in school and currently we believe the benefits outweigh any disadvantages we experience at Redmoor. However, we will continue to evaluate this. Phones should only be visible at break or lunch or in lessons. Students must not use their phones at all when moving between lessons. Only on rare occasions will permission be given for phones to be used in a lesson as part of a learning activity.

Parents Evenings

Feedback from staff and parents was overwhelmingly positive about the online parent evening system using School Cloud. We recognise there were some technical glitches but the ability to access from any location, privacy and efficient use of time for appointments were the key strengths. Therefore, we will continue to use this system for parent evenings next year. Please do make every effort to participate in these events as we work together to support students' progress.

Finally, it has been very rewarding this term to complement the academic business of the school with some extra curricular and enrichment activities. Mini-REC day, Sports Day, music and PE clubs and our progress and reward assemblies have all taken place and for me personally, the progress assemblies held in this final week have emphasised how well our students have done in what has been an extraordinary and unprecedented school year.

Whilst the summer break is much needed for all students and staff, I feel excited at the prospect of the new academic year and seeing our students flourish and thrive even more.

Have a restful and enjoyable summer and we will communicate plans for the return to school shortly.

Kindest regards,

Matt Nicolle
Principal

