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Headteacher: Mr E Rodriguez MA BSc (Hons)

11th September 2020

Dear Parents

The start to the autumn term is always rather busy but of course this year it has been especially so. There have been many new and changed procedures for staff, students and indeed parents to come to terms with and I wanted to thank everyone for how they have embraced these changes so positively.

Our premise has been to maintain year group 'bubbles' and in order to do so, we have put a number of control measures in place. Significantly, timetable changes have enabled us to reduce the amount of student movement around the school whilst staggering breaks and lunches have meant that each year group can have its own dedicated space during these times.

Thank you for your support in not driving onto the school in the mornings to drop off your children. This has made a big difference in enabling us to manage the safe entry of the students. We are aware that a number of children have been arriving particularly early in the morning. Can I ask you to remind your children that they should not be arriving before 8:30am to help us manage their safe entry in to school.

Changes to school organisation

However, the experience of these first few days indicates that we need to go further and so from Monday, the following changes will be made.

To reduce student movement still further, for years 7, 8 and 9, we will be moving the start of morning break from 10:15 to 9:45. This will also remove the current splitting of period 2 and provide even greater separation between year groups.

Students in year 10 and 11 are not directly affected by this change.

Secondly, KS3 science classes will no longer be scheduled in the science block. This will significantly reduce student movement across the site.

Lastly, we have decided to extend our one-way system across the whole site. This will ensure that any movements around the site can be managed much more efficiently. The new routes will be indicated by new signage and labelling. Tutors will discuss all these changes with their groups next week.

We will continue to monitor things very closely and advise you of any further changes should they be needed.

Diary notes for the coming week

Monday 14 September

Jeans for Genes Day: **non-school uniform** but please wear clothes that include a jeans or denim alternative. Please wear shoes appropriate for PE if you have it that day.

Year 9 catch-up HPV vaccinations

Tuesday 15 September

Year 7 and Year 9 individual school photographs. Please wear full school uniform; no PE kit even if you have PE that day.

Thursday 17 September

It is most regrettable that, due to the current restrictions, we will not be able to offer an Open Evening in the traditional manner this year. All local secondary schools have agreed to move to 'virtual' presentations and our joint statement on this can be found on our [website](#).

As a consequence of this, Thursday 17th September will be a full school day and not an early finish as previously advertised. The bus companies will be advised accordingly.

Friday 18 September

Staff INSET - school will be closed to all students

I wish you all a very good weekend

Kind regards

Edward Rodriguez
Headteacher