

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Dear Families,

Welcome back to the new academic year – unlike any previously experienced.

Thank you for your continued support in getting all young people safely back to school. We are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of the wider community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

We recognise the challenges some families currently face with 'NHS Test and Trace'. The service is under significant pressure as parts of the country experience local restrictions and tests are diverted to these regions. Whilst this situation is undoubtedly difficult, it is beyond our control.

If someone in your household shows symptoms but is unable to access a drive-in test site or home testing kit it is critical they self-isolate for at least 10 days. Those that live with them but don't show symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days. This is important public health guidance we all must follow.

Attendance is running at 96% in the primary and 94% in the college. Both are only slightly below pre-pandemic figures with most absence being unrelated to coronavirus.

We know many families are keen to understand what we are doing in school and our plans for the coming months. Both schools are running fairly typical school days except for the early closure of the primary on Wednesdays to assist with enhanced cleaning. As our cleaning operation becomes more efficient and capacity increases we will look to reinstate the full school day.

Whilst both schools have undoubtedly made substantial efforts to address potential mental health concerns and settle young people back into a COVID-secure environment, the full curriculum is returning. Young people are accessing all subjects but some limitations exist because of changes to learning environments, management of resources or need to keep a social distance. We continue to keep all practices under review to ensure teaching is safe and disruption decreased.

Thank you to those who responded to our lockdown survey. We will shortly publish arrangements for remote education should local restrictions affect us at some point in the future. Our review will build on what we learnt over lockdown – and focus on minimising the impact on youngsters.

Thank you for your support – please keep following our guidance so everyone can learn safely.

We remain in your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Blakelock".

Barry Blakelock  
Executive Head

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