

22nd October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the halfway point of the Autumn Term, I wanted to share with you some information about our plans for the next half term. Our priority is always the health, safety and well-being of all of our students, and this is why we have continued to keep students and staff working in **designated areas** of school for the duration of each day; they are zoned, minimising contact with students from other year groups in lessons; whilst moving around school during breaks and lunchtimes.

However, we have made some changes to allow students in key stage three classes more movement in practical curriculum subjects such as science, art, technology, computing, music and PE, which students have enjoyed tremendously. There is also a wide range of extracurricular activities now taking place including a wide offer of clubs across school and a number of recent Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Students in Years 10 and 11 will follow their usual timetable but will remain in the same designated area. Protocols remain in place for maintaining **cleanliness and sanitation** throughout the day: during break and lunchtimes; whilst entering school and moving around; using the toilet facilities and whilst travelling on the school buses (for those who choose that transport option.)

All students have a form tutor in school, who is the first point of contact for both students and parents alongside the Head of Year and the pastoral support officer. We plan to increase the amount of time that students will spend with their form tutor next half term to focus on our PSHE Curriculum and staff will cover areas such as healthy lifestyles and relationships, personal safety, mental health and wellbeing and careers advice and guidance. The full programme will be shared with you at the start of next term.

We are also offering a wider range of choice for school dinners for all year groups, please see the attached copy of the menu for your information. Students will be following a rota system whereby they will be able to choose from a variety of healthy, nutritious hot meals from our school canteen. However, if you wish to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we would encourage this. All students are set up on the biometric system in school, which means that as long as parents/carers use the ParentPay system to add money to their child's account, children will be able to pay for their lunch quickly using this system. There is no requirement for students to bring money to school. Please send your child in with a snack for break time as the canteen is not yet open at break time, although breakfast club will begin again after half term for those parents who have expressed interest.

We are delighted with the progress that students have made in their first half term, Year 7 have settled in very well and Year 11 are working hard towards preparing for their mock examinations in a few weeks. We have resumed extra-curricular activities such as sport and music, school visits including the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and careers briefing from our local college providers to help students prepare for their next steps.

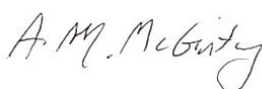
We are very proud of all our students and believe in high expectations for every student, including attending school in blue trousers or blue skirt with the school logo. The only exception to this is when your child has PE on their timetable, students should attend school in their PE kit and will remain in their kit all day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during this first half term and wish you a safe and restful half term break

Yours sincerely



Mark Cocker  
Headteacher



Aishling McGinty  
Head of School