

PARENTMAIL SENT

CHANGES IN SCHOOL ROUTINE (Sent on behalf of Mr Wardle.)

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of a really positive first full week with all students on site and adjusting to our new normal, the Senior Team continues to review the current procedures in place, making any amendments we need to, as we encounter new challenges we haven't come across previously.

What has become clear, at the beginning of each school day, numerous students are arriving from 7:45am onwards (who don't travel on buses) and are congregating outside the front gates and not social distancing. The School gates do not open until 8:20am as this allows students to immediately go into their form rooms and not gather in groups around school. I would strongly encourage any students who walk to school, to ensure they do not arrive earlier than 8:15am to avoid them grouping outside the gates before they are able to be opened.

We are aware that our end of day routines require additional work and we are working with our staff as a priority to address these issues.

A more common problem many staff have had to address is students who do not have face masks as they enter the site. Whilst we have been kindly donated some single use disposable masks, the supply is finite and are fragile and often break during the day. It is clear those students that have the reusable ones which can be washed, are more comfortable for students and are a more sustainable way of providing PPE. As a result, I would like, where possible, that students attend School from Monday 14th September with their own reusable mask. Where we can, we will supply those who have genuinely forgotten, however, when the supply inevitably runs out, we will be asking students to return home to collect their mask if this is possible.

The other major change in our normal routine has been visitors and items being dropped off at Reception. As previously mentioned in the documents sent out before the summer break, there can be no unannounced visitors or requests for meetings. If a meeting is essential, it needs to be conducted over the phone or virtually. Parents that are bringing items to be collected by students (eg spare kit) can no longer do so; as you are aware, the virus can be transmitted by touching items previously handled by someone with symptoms. This means we will no longer be accepting items such as spare PE kits or equipment being dropped off at Reception for them to find their way to students. From a positive perspective, this encourages students to be well organised the evening before, checking they have all they need for the following day.

I trust you understand that we are doing our utmost to keep our community safe. Despite months of meticulous planning, there will be some eventualities we would have never had planned for, however, we continue to learn and improve every day, to ensure our School remains a Covid secure environment.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Kind regards

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