

28 June 2021

Dear Parent

Planning for September

As you can imagine, there is lots of planning going on in school ready for September. We have been deciding what to keep from the changes this year due to COVID and what we want to go back to from before COVID. Overall though we are expecting to go back to 'normal' with aspects from this year that have actually worked very well. I have already sent the times for the new school day, please remember that Thursday is an early finish for Years 8 to 11 (Year 7 students will remain on site for enrichment activities). I can also confirm that in September, students will no longer be coming into school in their PE kit, they will change for PE and Dance onsite as they have done pre COVID.

There are lots of areas in school that are currently being reviewed, in September a new behaviour system will be launched to students and yourselves and we will be asking you to log onto our new system Go 4 Schools which will replace Class Charts. Go 4 Schools is similar to Class Charts from a behaviour and attendance point of view, but it also gives parents access to up to date progress and achievement information, such as your child's latest test scores. A letter will be coming out soon detailing changes.

In September we will also be having a literacy launch across the school and will be introducing knowledge organisers for all subject areas. These are booklets for students with all the key information they need for each subject area. These will be used as a basis for a lot of homework that will be set. The use of knowledge organisers, as well as providing students with key subject information, means that students regularly practice memorisation and revision strategies that will help them to be able to prepare effectively for key assessments and final GCSE examinations. This links to the work we have been doing this year around retrieval practice and the learning cycle.

Year 10 examinations and Year 10 Subject Evening (Thursday 15th July)

Year 10 are currently in the middle of their GCSE trial examinations. The behaviour of the students through these formal examinations has been excellent and I have been pleased with the commitment that they have shown towards them. Year 10 parents will be issued with the results on Thursday July 15th during the Year 10 subject evening. The individual exam papers will be analysed by their subject teachers and they will create 'RAP' sheets for each student (rapid improvement plan). These will identify areas that they need to personally focus on next year to improve their grade. These will be issued to students and parents at the start of the autumn term.

GL Assessments (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Students in Years 7, 8, and 9 are currently undertaking GL assessments, these are standardised tests which allow us to identify how our students and school are performing in relation to other schools nationally. The data we receive allows us to identify potential gaps in knowledge, either at individual student level or at a

cohort level which will help us plan moving forward. We have already used the results from some of these assessments to trial a new piece of intervention software that we are going to introduce in September.

COVID

I don't want to speak too soon but we have been very fortunate since our return to school in March regarding COVID cases, I know this hasn't been the case for a lot of schools and several secondary schools in Derby have now reintroduced the wearing of face masks for students.

The latest reports are showing an increase of COVID in the Derby area, so I ask that you all continue with the safety measures in place and in particular, ensure that the lateral flow tests are being completed at home. Please remember that the lateral flow tests should only be used when your child does not have any symptoms.

If your child receives a positive lateral flow test result, please report it to LB attendance as soon as possible. As per the government guidance, following a positive lateral flow test result at home:

- You and anyone you live with should self-isolate immediately
- [report your rapid lateral flow test result on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible
- Get a PCR test (a test that is sent to a lab) to confirm your result – [get a PCR test to check if you have COVID-19 on GOV.UK](#)

Continue to self-isolate until you get the result of the PCR test. Follow advice you're given when you get the result.

Strike days and End of Term

As you are aware, work for students will be set remotely using Class Charts for the upcoming strike days (Thursday 1st July, Tuesday 13th July and Wednesday 14th July). I will update you if there is any change to these arrangements or with the situation.

The last day of term is Friday 23rd July and there are staggered finish times for all year groups (Year 7 – 1.15pm, Year 8- 2.30pm, Year 9 – 1.45pm and Year 10 – 2.00pm). Students will return to school on Monday 6th September 2021 (Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September are INSET days). A full calendar for the next academic year will be sent to you before the end of this term.

Yours faithfully



Zoe House
Headteacher