

29th August 2024

Ref: CH/LK

Dear Parent/Carer

As the holidays come to an end, I wanted to write to you with a reminder of the plans for the start of the new academic year.

School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd September for Years 7 and 11 only, with normal start and finish times (8.40 am - 3.10 pm). School is fully open for all year groups from Wednesday 4th September 2024. Term dates for next year can be found on the school website.

Once again, I would like to remind parents of our expectations around uniform and standards of personal presentation. The full uniform list was issued at the end of term and is available on our website; this includes the PE kit and an overview of the rules in relation to make-up, jewellery etc. We very much appreciate your support in ensuring your children come to school wearing the correct uniform, and the sanctions we will be enforcing for the minority of children who are not conforming to the school's expectations. This does include, for example, the wearing of nail extensions and false eyelashes and I would ask that you ensure any of these which may have been worn over summer are removed before students return next week.

You will recall that I mentioned the changes to the timings of the school day for the primary school and how this would potentially cause further congestion at the beginning and end of the day; I would again ask that you consider dropping children a little earlier than 8.30 am, or drop off a short distance from school and allowing children to walk/use other modes of transport if they are able.

During last term, you will have received communications regarding changes to the national policy for attendance, which came into force on the 19th August and refers to new regulations in relation to unauthorised absences. As a reminder, the key changes affecting parents and carers are:

- There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
- The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
- There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
- If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
- If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

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It would be remiss of me not to refer to the tragic incident that occurred so close to our community and indeed within our local authority during the summer break – the children and families affected by this remain in our thoughts and prayers. We have taken some time to re-evaluate our safeguarding and critical incident procedures and would like to reassure our families that the safety of our community is our priority; we have implemented additional measures to ensure the site is secure at all times.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school next week, and to another successful year.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C. Hallwood
Principal