



26<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Ref: sr/sby/let04

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had and are having a great summer break. My goodness, didn't we all just need it after a tumultuous few months? I cannot tell you how genuinely excited I am to be welcoming your sons and daughters (back) to Wellington next week and assuming a degree of normality and routine. I am particularly looking forward to meeting and getting to know our new Year 7 cohort. As teachers, being back in the classroom is our 'purpose', our *raison d'être*, and it's been a long time coming. Of course, we will all share some apprehension as the School re-opens fully but it is absolutely the right thing to do for our young people (although, those of us in education don't wish to be lectured about what is morally correct by certain others in the public domain) and I'm sure all our parents will concur and support us through this phase.

A quick well done to all our GCSE and A level students for their patience, resilience, maturity and, ultimately, for their outcomes at the end of this sorry saga. They've had it tough over the last 5 months but most now feel vindicated having secured great results and their chosen destination for their post-16 or post-18 education. We're particularly delighted with the outstanding crop of new Year 12 students we will be welcoming into our 6<sup>th</sup> Form next Thursday.

In July, you received a copy of our Procedures for September. That remains pretty much the same but you may wish to have another glance before next week. Also, the updated risk assessment is on the website; do have a read through and don't hesitate to get back to me if you have any concerns or queries. I have also attached a useful template letter from Trafford with advice for you if your child shows symptoms of coronavirus. On our website, you can also find a DfE communications pack with materials aimed at reassuring parents who are preparing for their children's return to school.

The purpose of my communication today is simply to say a quick 'hello' and to highlight a few key points (it isn't necessarily intended to replace the Procedures document and the Risk Assessment, so please, mum and dad, set your children a good example and do your homework reading!). You have received and will receive messages from other colleagues, such as Deputy Head Mrs Copeland, Assistant Head Mrs Cooper who oversees KS3 and Mrs Stephens, Mr Cropper and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form team. This is an 'as well as' not an 'instead of':

- Year 7 and Year 12 will return to School on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.
- All other years will return on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September along with Year 7 (N.B. Year 12 are not required to attend on Friday).
- Students should not arrive on site before 8.15 until further notice.
- 6<sup>th</sup> formers should head to their allocated tutor base and arrive for 8.30.

11-18 Academy | Headteacher: Mr S P Beeley

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- All other year groups should gather in their designated 'outdoor zone', adhering to a 1 metre+ social distancing rule:
  - Year 7 – picnic benches by the all-weather pitch
  - Year 8 – yard behind Art rooms and outside rooms 7-10
  - Year 9 – centre site (canopies)
  - Year 10 – yard behind Maths / atrium
  - Year 11 – netball courts / area between Tech and all-weather pitch
- We ask that parents do not gather at the gates at the beginning or end of the school day (tempting, I know, for those with new starters).
- Mrs Copeland has already sent a reminder along with the Behaviour and Appearance Code but can I again ask you to remind yourselves of the School's policy on hairstyles – it would be such a shame, after such a long period out of structured education, to fall foul of our rules (sorry to nag but as we approach the end of the summer break, now is the time some of our youngsters make some poor choices).
- Oh, and footwear too! You know the score.
- Bracelets should not be worn in School anyway but guidance also suggests that removing watches, rings and false nails (!) also helps to reduce transmission of the virus.
- **As of yesterday, face coverings are now mandatory in communal areas (i.e. on corridors), so all students must now come to School next week equipped with a face mask.** We want staff and students to feel as comfortable as possible on their return, so it was always our intention to allow the wearing of a face mask, including in lessons and outdoors (N.B. we will insist on a plain face mask - no bandanas, garish colours, wacky patterns etc, please. Had we received more notice of the Government's U-turn on this, we would have ordered 'uniform' masks for all students before the start of term. This is something we will doubtless implement in due course.)
- There will be compulsory hand sanitising on arrival at the school gates and we have a plentiful supply in every classroom but I would advise students to bring their own small bottle too.
- We will not be collecting in mobile phones for the time being for obvious reasons but I would remind you that we are a 'mobile-free site' for students and any student seen using a mobile (or in the event of it 'going off' in a lesson) will have it confiscated for 24 hours (or over the weekend if on a Friday) in keeping with School rules.
- Please ensure your child is fully prepared for the day – parents will not be allowed to drop items off at Reception during this period. All frequently used equipment (pens, pencils, ruler, calculator, glue stick, green biro, highlighter pens) must not be shared so please help to make sure our young people are ready for learning in this respect.
- The water fountains around School will remain out of use for the foreseeable future so I would recommend that students bring water with them (N.B. cans of water can be purchased in the Dining Hall at lunchtime).

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- There is unlikely to be a break service for Year 10 and 11 in the Dining Hall initially (this will be confirmed) and given their allocated lunch time of 1.20, I strongly suggest they bring snacks with them.
- Of course, we wish to maintain our high standards with regard to attendance but, under the circumstances, we ought to err on the side of caution and if your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home (even if the symptoms are not COVID-specific). This is the best way of safeguarding our community.
- I don't wish to patronise anyone but could I just remind parents of the requirement to quarantine for 14 days if you have returned from one of the countries on the FCO's list. Please can you notify School if this applies to you.

I think that is enough for now; the specifics of movement around the site, staggered breaks / lunches, extra-curricular activities etc will be emphasised with students in due course. N.B. we will allow packed lunches to be eaten outdoors during this initial period.

I suspect most of our young people are genuinely looking forward to coming back for both social and educational reasons (although they may not admit to the latter). September will be a challenge for them all – new school, new routines, many restrictions and two-hour lessons! That old PMA (positive mental attitude) is what they must bring with them most of all. If they have that, we'll get through this 'recovery phase' with no issues and can look ahead to another successful Wellington year.

There is an expectation that all young people will return to schools next week but I am happy to have a chat with anyone who may seek further reassurance (once you have read all the documentation of course).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and all previous and subsequent messages; communication is key, so let's keep that dialogue going.

Yours faithfully

**Mr S P Beeley**  
**Headteacher**