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26 June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am feeling optimistic that we will be getting back to normal here at school soon.

The Prime Minister mentioned in his speech to the House of Commons on Tuesday, schools being 'back to full attendance from September'. We intend to achieve this in a safe and responsible manner having revisited our extensive risk assessment. Dependent upon that, and any changes signaled by government, we hope to open next term as follows:

Wednesday 26 August 2020 Year 7 only – Full Induction Day  
Thursday 27 August 2020 Year 7 and Year 10 only  
Friday 28 August 2020 Year 7, Year 10 and Year 8  
Monday 31 August 2020 BANK HOLIDAY  
Tuesday 1 September 2020 All Year groups back.

This should go some way towards helping these Year groups: Year 7 having missed their induction in the summer, Year 8 having had less than two terms at secondary school, Year 10 having missed the 6-week start to their new options subjects.

I am certain that it will not be school 'as normal' in that we will have to look at movement times and staggered breaks as well as ways of accommodating hygiene for increased numbers. We will be using the summer break to prepare the building and that will include the installation of more handwashing stations and a consideration of such matters as ventilation and personal protective equipment. We are hopeful that some government guidance will be available to supplement our thinking. Often in education, we learn the art of making the seemingly impossible, possible. We even have a poster in school that points out that the word itself gives us hints: 'I'm possible.' So please keep faith with us.

Schooling for essential workers will end on 10 July 2020. We will continue under the existing risk assessment with 2m distancing until the end of term.

### Online Summer Programmes for Year 9 to 11.

Some of our parents may be interested in encouraging their children to do something different this summer. One of the opportunities that we have heard about is run by Pathways, an organisation with whom we already have links.

They are offering a new online [Science programme](#) as part of the UniConnect Programme. This is a virtual, four-week programme aimed at Year 10 and 11 students. Find more details at <https://www.pathwaystohe.ac.uk/activities/pathways-science/>

Pathways will also be running a virtual, [four-week sport programme](#) aimed at year 9 students. More details can be found at <https://www.pathwaystohe.ac.uk/activities/y9sportscamp/>

Letters and fliers are available here: <http://www.wbvs.co.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=83>



## Home Heroes

We have been so delighted with the way students' successes have been shared through the Home Heroes Award Scheme. However, now that some normality is creeping back in, we must announce the scheme will be ending soon. Last nominations will be accepted up to 3 July 2020 to give us time to send out the final awards. Well done to anyone who received one.

## Teaching and Learning

As we approach the summer break, please note it is still important that students have logged in to Google Classroom. We will be using it to set homework next term, even when school is fully open so it will not be time wasted to get children up and running. Furthermore, should anything happen with the Coronavirus pandemic in the future that causes us to have to close again (please not) then students will be better prepared for remote learning. Do leave a message or email the office if you need help.

## Year 6 moving up to Year 7

For parents of Year 6 children, we are preparing our 'Virtual Induction Evening' film and we expect to have it available on the Transition Page of the Website from Thursday 2 July. We have a super stock of questions from our parents for which we will be recording suitable responses from SLT. We also have a video made by the students and a 'meet the tutors' section. We hope you will enjoy it. You will also notice that we have reserved the first day back in August (26<sup>th</sup>) just for Year 7 students. On that day, we will be giving Year 7 the care and attention they will need to settle in to school life.

## Uniform

Please visit our website for all details. You will need full school uniform for your children by the end of August. Do remember to mention in your weekly call from school, if you need help to purchase uniform.

Once again thank you to all our parents and carers for your support. I will continue to communicate through this weekly newsletter until the end of term. The last letter will be on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Should any news over the summer break affect our arrangements, I will communicate with you in the same way: letter by email, posted on the website and the link texted and tweeted.

Kind regards,

Rachael Fraser  
Headteacher

