

The Seagull



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HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

It was a real pleasure to welcome our students back to school this year. I wanted to write to explain some of the arrangements we have put into place for all our year groups. As a school, the safety of our students and staff is of paramount importance to us. The Government guidance was that all students should return to school full time without the use of rotas or significantly reduced timetables. Students in each year group should also have staggered start and finish times which allows us to ensure students in different year group bubbles do not mix. We ask parents to reinforce to their son or daughter that they must arrive at school at their designated time. It is also important that

students go home straightaway once they are dismissed from school.

Your child has been placed in a year group bubble. We are actively directing students to socially distance and stay a metre plus apart wherever possible. Seats in assembly are separated and students have their own outside recreation space with staff on duty reminding them about the social distancing rules. Seats in the dining hall are marked out in a socially distanced way and there is signage across the whole school site to reinforce the rules.

However, as with any school of this size, there are times when and where this may not be possible. For example, in classrooms or when lining up at the start of the day. In these instances, we are mitigating the risk by

lining students up outside in the open air and facing forwards in single file which allows us to reduce the distance between them. In classrooms, students are again facing forwards. Students sit in the same seat for most lessons and remain in the same teaching classroom unless they are being taught a practical subject. This also reduces movement around the site and reduces the number of student interactions.

In addition, we are actively promoting regular handwashing. Students are directed to sanitise their hands on entering the school and before they enter a classroom or line up at the canteen. There are fixed hand sanitisers outside every teaching space. We have also introduced an enhanced cleaning rota across the school site.

We have ensured our curriculum remains broad and balanced and that students have access to a wide range of subjects. At KS3, we have built in extra literacy and numeracy sessions in the form of the Read On and Count-On programmes to make up for any lost learning from last year. Year 7 also have Lexia, a reading and literacy programme, included in their timetabled day. Students at KS3 have homework and remote learning lessons planned into their timetables. During these sessions we will be supporting students to become independent learners and introducing them to some of the online materials that are available so that they can access them at home for further catch up or should we have to return to any form of home learning.

In Year 10 students have not lost any teaching time for their exam subjects. Although their school day is shorter, this has been achieved by reducing break and lunch times in addition to removing core PE from their timetable.

Although our timetables are broken down into half an hour slots, lessons are usually a full hour, similar to our usual school day. At the moment, we are working through the first week of the new timetable and school systems. Our aim is to reduce the amount of time spent moving between lessons and lining up in order to increase teaching times as the new school routines become embedded.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the continued support in these difficult times. If you have any concerns or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me directly or a member of your child's year team.

A special letter for Year 11 parents will be added to our website today and a link will be sent home by text.

Stay safe.

Mr Smith
Headteacher



GENERAL NEWS

Word of the week: Solidarity (noun)

Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group.

From French *solidarité* "communion of interests and responsibilities" and previously *solidaire* "interdependent, complete and entire".



Lockers

As the lockers were not emptied last term due to lockdown, we are not able to issue any this term.

If your child had a locker last term could you please ask them to empty their locker and remove the padlock by Friday 18th September. After this date we will arrange for all remaining lockers to be emptied and the contents disposed of, the lockers will then be zip tied closed until the situation changes.

Many thanks.

Mrs Stone
Office Manager

LOC Incentive – Returning Library Books

All students who borrowed a school library book earlier in the year need to return books now.

Students who return their library book(s) will be awarded an LOC if the library book is returned within two weeks of returning to school.

The library is currently closed to students, so a box will be outside the library doors for students to put the books being returned.

The LOC to be awarded from the ACHIEVE list will be either the I or V strand. If a student has a preference, they should leave a note in the library book being returned stating which they prefer.

If a library book cannot be returned for any reason, the £5 library fine can be paid via ParentPay to go towards the cost of a replacement book.

Thank you for supporting your school library during these unprecedented times.

Ms Osland
School Librarian

