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RICHARD HUISH



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Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to share some thoughts at the end of the first week and to say thank you for all of your support in helping us open the school safely.

Our Year 7 students have been wonderful this week and have made such a positive start to their time with us. They have been polite, hard working and have impressed all of their teachers. Please congratulate them for their efforts – they have earned a weekend. It has been a real joy to welcome back all the year groups this week and to chat and laugh with them. Students have been ready to work and have been mature in the way that they have worked with us in trying to keep everyone safe. Attendance is incredibly high and students have been on time which is excellent. Uniform has looked smart for the vast majority of students. We have been understanding; where items of uniform have been missing, but please support us to maintain uniform expectations.

We started the week with assemblies for each year group. I explained the adjustments that we have made around school in response to Covid-19. These are for the benefit of the wider community and everything we do is intended to help keep each individual and our wider families healthy. We have used DEAR time to support wellbeing and to give students a chance to reflect on the last few months as well as the feelings associated with coming back to school. Lessons have begun the process of reminding students what they have learned and then building on that knowledge so that they can make progress.

We continue to monitor the national and local picture and are in contact with the other local schools. We are preparing a contingency in the event that a local or national lockdown is announced and to that end we wanted to share with you some details about the way that we will deliver online lessons. We will use Microsoft TEAMS as this is a safe system that is easy for students to navigate. During next week we will explain to students what this looks like and how to access it. I would ask that you keep the attached guide in a safe place for reference if it is needed. We will also share this information on our website. This system will be different from the one we used before the summer as lessons will follow the school timetable and will be led by teaching staff which should provide greater clarity and support for the student and reduce the burden on you as parents.

I have also attached a flow chart about what the process would be if a member of your family displays symptoms. Please stay in touch with us if you have a suspected case so that we can advise you and protect others.

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We are continuing to review and adjust our systems within school as we see how things operate with everyone in. The way that students are working with us on this is a real testament to their understanding of the unique situation we are all in.

From Monday, the restrictions on groups of no more than six come into force. Please reinforce the message with your child so that they come straight home.

We have only been back for a week and yet I suspect that your children will be feeling very tired already. The change of routine and the different intellectual demands will be taking a toll on students. Things will get easier as time goes on and we all start to feel a little more in control again. It has been a real pleasure to see how the whole school community has come together this week and I am very proud of both the students and staff for all of the contributions that they have made.

Very best wishes for a peaceful weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Eddy', with a long, thin vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Mr J Eddy  
Head Teacher

Encl. Accessing Microsoft TEAMS  
Managing Covid-19 in school aged children – actions for parent and carers