



08 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

It is the end of the first week of term and it has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school after the summer holidays.

A growing band is welcomed back

The school is positively bustling with over 460 students onsite which is wonderful to see, hear and witness. It is only just over a year ago that we were a school of 340 but the last two years have seen a marked growth with a further rise anticipated next year. What is most pleasing is that having been around the school and seen the new Year 7 in action it is not only in quantity, but it is also in quality that our students have grown.

Uniform

The students have arrived in a heatwave which is unfortunate as we endeavour to establish our uniform standards and culture, however it is great to see the vast majority of students getting it right and looking incredibly smart. Our new House ties add a special touch to our uniform and house identities. I have my fingers crossed that next week we are back to more acceptable temperatures for our students and staff to work in.

However, can I be absolutely clear that nose studs are not permitted in school and must not be worn.

Assembly

I gave my annual start of year assembly to students and discussed many matters including our growing school and updates on rules, regulations and expectations. I also covered the revival of our Removal and Reflection room for those students not getting it right in the school day. The assembly finished with a clear message being given about students not being permitted to bring prohibited items onto the school site which I hope everyone has heeded.

Homework

The assembly also covered our approach to homework, and I hope you will notice a more pro-active approach from staff for the non-completion of homework. Whilst there is not an automatic detention for the non-completion of homework, we will be expecting students to come back and complete the work either at lunch or after school. Similarly, any serial offenders will be expected to attend our homework club each week (this operates every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the library from 3.15pm to 4.15pm). As parents, please can I ask that you use the MCAS app to check homework and support the completion of homework at home so that all the students can move forwards together. If any parents are struggling to support their students with the completion of homework or have not been able to sort out the app, please do contact the school directly for assistance.

IT issues

Without wishing to dramatise matters, this week has been quite the challenge as a result of the Trust cyber-attack. Staff have not always had access to computers or laptops in classrooms as well as printing not being available. However, it is a pleasure to work with the staff as they have shown huge resilience to overcome the challenges they have faced. They definitely deserved the free Magnum ice cream they all received on Thursday lunchtime!

Update on Catering

A restricted catering service will be available to students on Monday next week due to the ongoing IT issues we are facing. There will be a limited range of hot items available at lunch and these will be offered on the basis of a meal deal only (hot main meal, a sweet treat and plain water).

Where possible, we would really appreciate students bringing in their own packed lunch to alleviate some of the pressure on our catering teams and to ensure that all students get through service as quickly as possible. We are unable at this time to offer any food or drinks at break or at breakfast. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding during these challenging times

MECE community

Our week began on Tuesday with Year 7 and 11 arriving and completing a bespoke day with lots of time with tutor groups and it was great to see so many smiling faces on the way out of school at the end of the day. One highlight of this day is our community lunch when staff and students get time to sit down with each other and chat and get to know each other after the long summer break.



Welcome evenings!

I hope to see many Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 parents next week at our parent welcome events with Year 7 taking place the following week.

[Letters For Parents](#)

Have a great weekend and don't forget a hat and the factor 50 if you're on the side of a sports pitch this weekend!

Yours sincerely



Andy Hartley
Headteacher