



18 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of term and readiness for September 2022

This school term will finish on Friday 22 July 2022 at 3.00pm. I wish to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment for what has been another challenging year with the impact of COVID-19, reopening of school following multiple lockdowns, changes to staffing, an Ofsted Section 5 Inspection (for which we retained our Good rating) and the return of full examinations at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. It has been rewarding to host events including KS3 Awards Afternoon Tea, Sports Day, extra-curricular clubs and even assemblies. The following are some of the areas we have been reviewing over the last few months as we continue to adjust through our Recovery Plan and be in readiness to respond to any further changes to Government policy. The layout of this letter is in sections to provide detail of our procedures and any related changes; I trust you will find this information helpful.

The following list details the term dates and other school closure dates for the next academic year:

- **Tuesday 6 Sept 2022**- with Year 7 starting at 9.00am; Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 starting at 1.00pm. The bus service will operate as usual
- **Thursday 22 Sept 2022**- School will close at 13.55pm to allow pupils and students to go home and return to support Open Evening; school bus service will operate as usual
- **Friday 23 Sept 2022** – School will be closed for Training Day
- **Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October 2022** – Half Term break
- **Friday 25 Nov 2022**- School will be closed for Training Day
- **Monday 19 December 2022 to Tuesday 3 January 2023** – Christmas Break
- **Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February 2023** – Half Term break
- **Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 2023** – Easter Break
- **Monday 1 May 2023**- Bank Holiday
- **Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023** – Half Term break
- **Friday 21 July 2023** – End of academic year

School Day – following consultation last term it was decided to keep the school day times for pupils/students as 8.50am to 3.00pm. There will continue to be a two break and two lunch system; although this reduces some opportunities for extra-curricular study, it does provide focused social time for year groups

Registration – this will remain at the usual time of 8.50am to 9.05am; punctuality and attendance remain a priority for the school as we continue to work to meet the national average of 96% attendance. The most recent statistical data (2018/19) from the Department for Education (DfE) states “Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent”.

To have greater focus on both PSHE and Pastoral Care, we have decoupled registration from the Monday morning PSHE lesson which was formerly known as Lifetracks. Year Leaders and Assistant Year Leaders have responsibility for any programme of learning activities during morning registration working in partnership with other members of staff from across the school. The focus of registration

period is attendance, punctuality, and attitude to learning with Form Tutors supporting all members of their Form to be ready for the day with uniform, planner and equipment checks as well as discussions about current events and matters which concern them; Form Tutors have always been and remain the “go to person” if children have concerns

Year Team bases for registration not PD lessons – in response to the reopening of schools following the pandemic, we located year teams in individual faculty areas, and this has proven successful in supporting having children together first thing in the morning to address any pastoral matters. For the academic year 2022 to 2023 the locations for year groups will be:

- **Year 7 based in Maths led by Mr Russell (Year Leader) and Miss Bird (Assistant Year Leader)**
- **Year 8 based in Humanities led by Miss Holmes (Year Leader) and Mr Martin (Assistant Year Leader)**
- **Year 9 based in English led by Mr Staniland (Year Leader) and Mrs Adams (Assistant Year Leader)**
- **Year 10 based in MFL and CBEM led by Mr Varley (Year Leader) and Ms Scott (Assistant Year Leader)**
- **Year 11 based in Science led by Mr Atkinson (Year Leader) and Miss O’Neil (Assistant Year Leader)**

PSHE lessons – for many years we have delivered our PSHE curriculum through a Lifetracks lesson on Monday period 1; over time this has become overlapped with work on pastoral care and our Positive Behaviour Strategy. From September 2022, PSHE will be delivered through a Personal Development (PD) lesson timetabled on Wednesday period 3. Ms Moon has been promoted to Strategic Leader for Personal Development and Miss Butt has been promoted to Personal Development Enhancement Leader to ensure our PSHE curriculum is as effective as possible; they will be supported in their work through the recently appointed PD Advocates. Pupils will move to the classroom their Form Tutor usually teaches in rather than be taught in their Form Room; Personal Development will be a timetabled lesson not Form time

Uniform – in response to the Government directive to reduce cost of school uniform, from September 2022 the school uniform will be dark blue polo shirt and dark blue sweatshirt with black trousers for boys and girls, with the option of black skirt and opaque tights for girls, black shoes, and dark socks. Pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 are allowed to continue to wear their white shirt, school tie and navy jumper if they wish. The school lanyard is expected to be worn by all pupils/students as part of school uniform. We will provide all pupils with a coloured lanyard for their year group and a new identity card

PE Kit – our PE Faculty continue to comment on the responsiveness of our pupils to their PE lessons by allowing them to wear PE kit to school on the days they have timetabled PE lessons. However, we will not allow pupils to wear PE kit all day if they are in an after-school club; pupils will have to bring their PE kit to school to change into at the end of the school day

Standards and expectations – we are clear and accept that face piercings, the colour of someone’s hair, make-up, false nails, and false eyelashes do not prevent someone from learning; the reason we state we do not accept facial piercings, jewellery, extreme hairstyles and coloured hair, acrylic nails, extreme make-up and extreme false eyelashes is because we have standards and expectations of children who are members of our school community; we believe it helps pupils become more prepared for the expectations of future careers, professions, organisations and institutions who may and will have the same expectations. In addition, we expect all members of our school community to be polite, respectful, and tolerant of others; to accept that we have standards and expectations which they must follow and be proud of being a member of our school community

Parents’/Carers’ Consultation Evenings – in line with the practice developed during lockdown and the overwhelmingly positive response we have received from parents and carers; we will continue to hold Parents’/Carers’ Evenings online using Microsoft Teams. The positive responses we have received focus on flexible support for parents and carers who have other commitments and having dedicated time for them to talk about their child is of great benefit, whatever the weather!

Response to the Areas for Improvement in the Ofsted Report

SEND – we have appointed nine SEND Advocates (one from within each Faculty) who have begun working with our Acting Assistant Headteacher, Inclusion and our Acting SENDCo to develop strategies to better support learners with SEND. We have already organised whole school training in partnership with the ADHD Foundation and our focus for Training Days next academic year is on supporting the needs of learners at all levels so we continue to ensure we have 0% NEET (Not entering education,

employment or training) with all our children continuing to stay on in Sixth Form or Apprenticeship or go onto the university of their choice including Oxford and Cambridge to study Veterinary Science, Medicine, Engineering, Maths and so on

PSHE (Personal Development (PD)) – as already outlined previously we have appointed Ms Moon as Strategic Leader of Personal Development and Miss Butt as PD Enhancement Leader to drive forward our strategic plans for Personal Development. We have decoupled PSHE from morning registration as Lifetracks Monday period 1 is now timetabled as Personal Development on Wednesday period 3. In addition, we have appointed six PD Advocates to work with Miss Moon and Miss Butt; together they will work on the individual strands of the PSHE curriculum

Finally, this academic year, I wish to thank you for your continued support; as you know, I strongly believe that it is through partnership that we achieve so much. I appreciate that at times decisions we make and procedures we have in place may at times seem challenging, but it is through a conviction of us making real our values - of working together, being resilient to change, ambitious in our aims and caring for each other that drives us forward. I wish everyone a good summer break as we look forward to KS4 and KS5 Results Days again and the new school year.

Yours sincerely

Ian Morrel

Headteacher