

31 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you have had a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to welcoming back our students at the start of term and particularly our new Year 7 students. This letter will provide you with a range of information to make the start of term easier for everyone.

Return to school dates

We have planned a phased return to school that will ensure that all students return within the first full week of September. The grid below indicates when each year group should be in school. Please note that students in Years 12 & 13 will have received a letter advising them of their appointment time for their enrolment days. Students can contact the sixth form centre if they are unsure. They will not be required to stay for the whole day once their enrolment is complete. They must though ensure that they have their covid test on site before they leave.

We will be providing a range of transition activities during the first week for all students in preparation for the year ahead.

	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 10
Year 7	In school	In school	In school	In school	In school
Year 8	Not required to attend	Not required to attend	Not required to attend	In school	In school
Year 9	Not required to attend	Not required to attend	Not required to attend	In school	In school
Year 10	Not required to attend	Not required to attend	Not required to attend	In school	In school
Year 11	Not required to attend	In school	In school	In school	In school
Year 12	Enrolment in school	Not required to attend	In school	In school	In school
Year 13	Not required to attend	Enrolment in school	In school	In school	In school

New Year 7 students

We are very aware that new Year 7 students missed out on their normal transition day in July. We have therefore planned a transition week which will give them the opportunity to take part in some fun and creative activities as well as familiarise themselves with their new school and get to know their form tutors. This will include a picnic lunch on Tuesday 7 September which we will provide, but students are welcome to bring their own food as well.

The school canteen will be open from Monday 6 September for Year 7 students to buy lunch (except for Tuesday 7). Information regarding the school canteen and ParentPay was sent out in the welcome packs but if you have not yet been able to set up your ParentPay account, then students can arrive to school with cash

which they will be able to put on their account using the machine located in the school hall. Students are also welcome to bring their own packed lunches if they prefer, to be eaten inside the dinner hall along with their year group.

Year 7 Students need to arrive in their PE kit on Tuesday 7 September.

Students who are entitled to Free School meals will have money allocated to their account each day for them to spend in the canteen.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed recently, you may be entitled to free school meals for your children. You can check this by completing the form at this link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/>. Even if your child brings a packed lunch and you do not think they will eat school dinners, being eligible will still give them a daily amount of £2.37 to spend in the school canteen which can normally be used to purchase food and/or drinks during the school midmorning break or lunch time.

In addition, the school are given additional funds for every student entitled to free school meals and this can be used to subsidise their school visits or other curriculum resources to support with their learning. I would strongly recommend that you check if you are eligible.

Covid testing

You may be aware from the press that we will be offering two Covid tests in school to all students with prior consent. We have contacted parents and carers of new Year 7 students to obtain consent in advance of the students starting school next week. For all other students we will operate using the previous consent supplied by families.

School operating procedures

We have decided to continue to operate some of the changes that were made during the last academic year. Some of these strategies proved to be very useful given the design of the school building so we have chosen to retain them. We will continue to be guided by government advice and will keep you up to date with any changes by email, letter and the school website. In the meantime, when students return to school we will continue with the following:-

- A staggered entry by year group into school from the playground each morning
- Maintaining the one way system in place around the majority of the building
- A staggered exit from classrooms at the end of the day
- Split breaks and lunches with designated seating for each year group
- Masks will be offered to students travelling on school bus services
- Students can continue to wear masks if they wish in classrooms or on the corridors
- Students will be asked to wipe down their work surfaces in classrooms before or after they use them
- Allocated toilets for year groups
- Increased cleaning of touch points and toilets during the school day

PE Kit

We intend to continue with students wearing PE kit to school on any day that they have PE. This was introduced for safety reasons at the start of the pandemic, but as a school we have found that this does allow the students to spend more time actively engaging in their lessons because of the reduced need for students to change at the start and end of lessons. Students have also reported that they are happy with this system.

We therefore intend to continue with this as a trial for the first half term when we will review the success of the strategy. It is though vital that students wear the correct PE kit on these days details of which can be found at <https://jws.bham.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>. On PE days students must wear **either** wear a JWS fleece or a JWS blazer on top of their PE kit.

Uniform

Thank you for your support with ensuring that our students are attending school in their full and correct uniform. Just a reminder that students **must bring a blazer to school every day including the days that they have PE. The only exception is if they have a school PE fleece in which case, they can choose to wear their fleece instead of their blazer.**

Tracksuit tops, hoodies, sweatshirts, fur style coats, denim jackets and other fashion jackets are not permitted in school and students will be asked to remove them if they are wearing them, both in the school building and on the playground.

Please note that the uniform rules allow for a small stud in each ear, a ring and watch. Students should not be wearing bracelets or chains and nose studs are not allowed. All jewellery must be removed during PE lessons. Some students are wearing very expensive jewellery to school. This is a concern in case it is lost and it should be left safely at home.

There is a recent fashion for very long and sharp acrylic nails. These nails are not allowed as they present as a risk to other students and make it impossible for students to engage appropriately with practical lessons such as PE, product design and food technology. Please ensure that when your child returns to school in September, they do not have acrylic nails as we will be actively enforcing this school rule for the benefit of all students.

The National Breakfast Programme

I am pleased to be able to tell you that following the success of last year's Magic breakfast programme we have managed to secure funding so that we can continue to offer a free breakfast for every child in school each day. Our catering company Chartwells will continue to support us in ensuring that fresh buttered bagels are delivered to every classroom during period 1 every day so that every student can have a free nutritious breakfast at the start of each day.

We hope to expand the food on offer over the coming term, but this will be dependent on the evolving national situation so that we can ensure breakfast is provided in the safest way for all students. I will continue to keep you updated regarding our plans.

Term dates

Please note below the dates for the school year including training days. It is vital that students attend school every day. Please do not book holidays during term time and where possible make medical appointments outside of the school day. Further information will follow from Ms Nicholls, Attendance Officer in the next few days.

Autumn Term 2021

Term Starts: Monday 6 September 2021 – Thursday 21 October 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021

Term Starts: Monday 1 November 2021 - Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Term Starts: Wednesday 5 January 2022 – Thursday 17 February 2022

Half Term: Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022

Term Starts: Monday 28 February 2022 – Thursday 7 April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Term Starts: Monday 25 April 2022 – Friday 27 May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Term Starts: Monday 6 June 2022 - Friday 22 July 2022

Training days

Thursday 2 September

Friday 3 September

Friday 22 October

Monday 29 November

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Friday 18 February 2022

Friday 8 April 2022

Friday 1 July 2022

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher