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Principal: Mr J Salberg

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we arrive at the end of the week I wanted to thank you for your continued support in getting all our students back into school safely. We are all committed to providing the very best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these times and for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same. Please could I ask that you continue to remind your child to bring a mask to school every day and encourage them to look after it. We have given out over 2000 disposable masks since we have returned which I am afraid is not sustainable and I ask for your support in this. Please may we also remind you and your child that as we informed you last week, from **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September** any student wearing a hoodie will have the item confiscated until it can be collected by a parent/carer.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all students catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a student is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

Below I have highlighted some of the key steps we have already taken, and next week I will be able to share with you our comprehensive contingency plan in case we are faced with further restrictions.

<p><b>School reopening</b></p>	<p>The School is fully open and all students have their entire complement of subjects. We operate a one way system around the school and have designated teaching areas, and separate areas at break times, for Year groups to ensure the safety of both students and staff. Where specialist rooms are required for teaching these are cleaned regularly. We operate a slight stagger to the times of the day at break and lunch, in order to keep year groups separate at these times, and at the end of the school day to allow us to minimise crowding whilst students are leaving the school site.</p>
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<p><b>Attendance</b></p>	<p>Our attendance figure for the first two weeks of the school year is at <b>94%</b>. This compares with our attendance figure for March 2020 which was at <b>93.7%</b>. It is so important that every student attends school every day in order to secure the best outcomes possible.</p> <p>Year group break down for September 2020:</p> <p>Year 7 - 96.5%</p> <p>Year 8 - 94.6%</p> <p>Year 9 - 93.5%</p> <p>Year 10 - 92.8%</p> <p>Year 11 - 92.8%</p> <p>Well done to Year 7 students for being in school over 96% of the time. Let us get the attendance of other year groups improving, especially those preparing for their GCSE examinations. We don't have any time to lose.</p>
<p><b>Remote learning March - July 2020</b></p>	<p>Throughout the partial school closures remote learning was provided via Class Charts, and for the current Y11 cohort it was duplicated on MS Teams. This was in the form of narrated PowerPoints and set learning tasks. Students were able to work electronically, or on paper, to complete and submit the tasks.</p> <p>Engagement of students was measured in Term 6, with approximately 40% of students fully engaged in all aspects of remote learning.</p> <p>Students worked to a timetable which was published to parents/carers and were expected to work for 30 minutes per lesson, per day, as a minimum. All students work was assessed via online quizzing, usually MS Forms, and at least one formal piece of marked work using the schools WIN format.</p>
<p><b>Mental health and wellbeing</b></p>	<p>We have set sessions for those students finding things difficult following the Covid-19 partial school closure. As a school we are now working with Kooth.com to provide students with free online counselling.</p>

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely and do not come to school if you or your child displays COVID symptoms.

Kind regards,



Mr J Salberg  
Principal