

02 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Welcome to Year 8!

We are very pleased to finally welcome our new Year 8 students back in to school after the most difficult of times for you, the students and us! The systems and procedures to keep everyone safe will bring new challenges for us all but we know that with everyone working together we can meet these adversities with positivity and optimism for the year ahead. Our continued high standards and expectations of all of the school community will lead us on our journey to help maximise the potential of all our young people, both academically and in terms of their personal growth. There is a staggered return to school and also different start, break, lunch and end times to the school day for each year group. It is therefore vital that parents and students are aware of the key information below.

Year 8 will return to school on Monday 7 September 2020 at 9.55am where they will be given their timetables and go straight to their period 2 lesson. Their teacher will ensure they are inducted and given all the information they need.

Year 8 will enter and exit school through the PE gate but can access this from either Axholme Rd or Westmoreland Rd entrance.

Staff will be there to guide students where to go and their timetables will be given out to them when they arrive.

Year 8 will be taken through all of the details that they will need to know to follow our COVID secure procedures whilst they are in school.

Year 8 will start (from Tuesday 8 September 2020) their normal school day, every day at 8.45am and finish at 2.50pm. They will always enter and exit school through the PE gate.

A detailed school timetable for Year 8 lesson times, breaks and lunches will be given to students and you will be able to access this on firefly and the school website.

Reminder: Year 8 will only be able to buy food at lunch time and therefore will need to bring their own snack for their break. They will also need to bring a bottle of water with them as the fountains cannot be used.

Working together – we must all be responsible for our own part to play in ensuring the safety and well-being of all our school community.

- In order to support each other it is absolutely **vital that the students are on time** and failure to do so will put at risk the safety of the systems that have been put in place. We thank you for your support with this very important part of our safety procedures.
- **Students must look after their equipment** as staff cannot lend this out. We will provide all students with a basic pack at the beginning and they will need to look after this and their own equipment carefully.

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Headteacher
Mrs M Marr



National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership



- Students must **follow the instructions** that they are given by staff to ensure everyone remains safe and able to attend school.
- In light of recent government announcements, we would **strongly encourage all students to have their own face mask to wear when moving around the corridors or when they are congregated in their year bubble.** The masks should carry no offensive words, images or scary designs. We recommend they bring their mask in a small plastic bag to keep it clean.
- We recommend that students bring their own small personal hand sanitiser to use when they put their masks on and take them off. Every classroom will have a hand sanitiser but this is an extra recommendation.

The Team

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new leadership team for Year 8. Mrs Maroke is the Year Leader and Mr Frankish is Pastoral Leader, whilst Miss Webb will oversee Year 8. Mrs Orchard will also be supporting the team in-terms of her focus on graduation data and standards. Miss Roberts will support Year 8 in her role as Strategic Leader and Head of Key Stage 3.



Miss Roberts
Deputy Headteacher



Miss Webb
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Maroke
Year Leader



Mr Frankish
Pastoral Leader



Mrs Orchard
Pastoral support

Our tutor team:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 8.1 Mrs Coe | 8.6 Miss Ellul |
| 8.2 Miss Reposeur | 8.7 Mr Jones |
| 8.3 Miss Shaikh | 8.8 Miss Lloyd |
| 8.4 Ms Paddock/Ms Ordu | 8.9 Mr Topping |
| 8.5 Mr Moffatt | 8.10 Mr Roper |

We are also very pleased to welcome Mr Moffatt as a new tutor to the team.

Virtual schooling

We were proud and delighted that our year group demonstrated the highest and most consistent engagement with virtual learning of the whole school. Many students adapted to the firefly system submitting work on line and working with their teachers and year leaders to continue to learn and make progress. Students, staff and parents had to adapt quickly to a new way of learning and engaging alongside the challenges that COVID-19 brought to us all. The speed with which everyone did this was something we can all be proud of. The resilience and positive attitude that young people showed is admirable and we are so proud of those young people and the families and staff that supported this.

Graduation

Whilst we were fully expecting nearly all of our Year 7 students to graduate last year, sadly, in reality, we were unable to celebrate their wonderful achievements in the usual way. We do, however, look forward to being able to do this at the end of this academic year, in whatever form it may take. The graduation process will continue to support, monitor and reward the attendance, punctuality, progress and positive attitude of students and ensure that they continue to develop the essential skills that allow them to succeed.

Options

In Year 8, students will have the opportunity to select subjects to study in Year 9 as the curriculum becomes more specialised. It is hoped that we will be able to hold parental information evenings to discuss option choices with subject teachers at the options. The provisional date for this is **20 January 2021**. We will provide you with further information closer to the time.

Key dates – Autumn Term

Some dates for this term that you may want to make a note of are highlighted below. Trips outside of school will not be happening for obvious reasons but also because we think it is essential that students have as much class time in school as possible.

Monday 07 September	Y8 return to school for start at 9.55 (all other days 8.45 start).
Monday 26-30 October	Half term
Wednesday 4 November	Y7 and 8 SEND virtual coffee morning
Saturday 19 – Sunday 3 January	Christmas holiday
Wednesday 20 January	Y8 Options Evening 5:30 – 7:00pm

We would like to have a parent information evening, but due to the current constraints, this will be recorded and available online from Friday 11 September 2020.

We thank you again for all of your patience and understanding in these unusual circumstances and we would like to reiterate that our focus is now on the well-being of our young people so that they can move forward as safely as possible and continue to progress their academic and personal development. We wish your child every success in the academic year ahead and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. Please contact Mrs Maroke in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



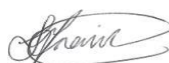
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