

02 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Welcome to Year 9!

We are very pleased to finally welcome our new Year 9 students back into 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 a different start, break, lunch and end time to the school day for each year group. It is therefore vital that parents and students are aware of the key information below:

- **Year 9 will return to school on Monday 7 September 2020 at 12:10pm.**
- **Year 9 will enter and exit school through the Sixth form garden (the nearest gate to this is Axholme Rd but it can also be accessed from Westmorland Rd).**
- **Staff will meet students in the Sixth form Garden to guide them to their tutor room where their timetables will be given out to them.**
- **Year 9 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.**
- **From Tuesday 8 September 2020 onwards, Year 9 will follow their normal school routine starting at 8:50am and they will finish at 3:10pm. They will always enter and exit school through the Sixth form garden.**
- **A detailed school timetable for Year 9 lesson times, breaks and lunches will be given to students and you will be able to access this on Firefly and the school website.**
- **Year 9 will be able to buy food at break and lunchtime in the canteen.**

Working together – we must all be responsible for playing our own part 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;** failure to do so will mean the additional Health and Safety systems that have been put in place will be at risk. We thank you for your support with this very important part of our safety procedures.
- **Students must look after their equipment** as staff can not lend this out. We will provide all students with a basic pack at the beginning of term and they will need to look after this and their own equipment carefully.

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Headteacher
Mrs M Marr



- 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 together in their year bubble**. The masks should carry no offensive words, images, sporting logos or scary designs. We ask that they have a clear bag to keep their mask in so that it remains clean throughout the day.
- We would ask that students bring their own small bottle of hand sanitiser, although all classrooms will have one it will be useful to have their own personal one too. They should sanitise before they put their mask on and when they take it off.

The Team

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the leadership team for the new Year 9. Mrs Lomas is the Year Leader and Mr Faulkner is the Pastoral Leader, whilst Mrs Bennett will oversee Year 9. Miss Roberts will continue to support Year 9 in her role as Strategic Leader and Head of Key Stage 3.



Miss Roberts
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Bennett
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Lomas
Year Leader



Mr Faulkner
Pastoral Leader

Our tutor team:

9.1 Miss Jones

9.2 Mr Wood

9.3 Mrs Bywater

9.4 Mr Gardiner

9.5 Miss McDonagh

9.6 Mrs Roberts

9.7 Miss Brooks

9.8 Mr Owen

9.9 Mr Ricketts

We are also very pleased to welcome Miss Brooks and Mr Owen as new tutors to the team.

Virtual schooling

We were proud and delighted that this year group demonstrated a good and consistent engagement with virtual learning. 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 8 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

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Respect to all, from all

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.

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	Y9 return to school at 12:10
Monday 14 September	Y9 will have their HPV injections, please ensure that you have completed the consent form for this
Monday 26-30 October	Half term
Saturday 19 – Sunday 3 January	Christmas holiday
Thursday 04 February	Y9 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 18 September 2020.

We thank you again for all of your patience and understanding in these unusual circumstances and 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 Lomas in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Miss Roberts
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Bennett
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Lomas
Year Leader



Mr Faulkner
Pastoral Leader

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