



7 July 2023

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Dear Parents and Carers

This will be my final letter of the year ahead of our last edition of the Parent Bulletin closing the term. It's great to feel that this year has progressed and delivered a curriculum journey as planned, providing many wider opportunities closely linked to subject areas or learning outside the classroom and even outside our country. Our students sitting terminal examinations have managed to complete a full series, early reports are positive and we look forward to celebrating with them in August. It has been wonderful to welcome our soon to be Year 7's on Transition Day this week, they will soon add their own mark to our rich community. A big well done to all our student leaders and performers who supported the Year 6's on Wednesday, it's events such as these that you really see the fibre and character of our young people – they were simply superb in welcoming our new students.

A large focus of the final few weeks of term is to reward and acknowledge student efforts. Please do look at the wonderful articles on our website highlighting individual and year group achievements. A special mention to Erin, who was in receipt of the Head Teachers Award. Erin has embodied our core values wholeheartedly in her seven year journey and now has an exciting University path to tread from September. Erin, I wish you all the luck, you will be missed - you have been a fantastic student.

### Final Day Logistics

Students' final day in school will be on Friday 21 July. Lessons will be as per their normal timetable with a carousel of assemblies to celebrate student achievements on both Thursday and Friday. Students will be dismissed from school site at 12.20pm, inclusive of those on buses.

In looking forward to September 2023 can I draw you attention to the following key messages.

### **Uniform:**

We recently wrote to all parents with reminders about our uniform expectations in readiness for September. During the last two weeks, Form Tutors and Year Leaders have been completing a uniform audit for all year groups and they will be writing to parents by way of reminder to support with students where areas of their uniform are not in line with our policy. Please refer to our website and to previous communications for specific guidance.

### **Attendance**

We are committed to all our students having the best possible education and positive experiences during students' time with us. Our whole school attendance has improved again this academic year following the impact of school lockdowns. However, we know students' attendance still needs to improve to reach our target of 96%. With the support of all staff and other agencies we are committed to supporting excellent attendance for each child. To achieve this, we expect that students achieve at least 96% attendance every academic year, which still equates to 7.5 days of school missed in a school year. Our Attendance and Punctuality Policy [here](#) has recently been updated with information for parents and carers as to how they can support their child with maintaining excellent attendance. The

Local Authority have also updated their guidance on Leave of Absence during Term Time; the extract of their information can be found in Annex 1 of this policy.

### Structure of the school day

As we move into the new academic year in September, I have included information on the schedule of the school day. In order to manage the safe entrance and exit of large groups of children and ease pressures around our local community please see the table below. Students will be reminded about our routines along with the site entrance and exit points for their year groups between now and the start of term however, I would appreciate your support in reiterating these reminders to support a smooth transition into the new year ahead. We will continue to support different arrival arrangements for some students should that be required. Please continue to liaise with your child's Head of Year.

A significant change for all to be aware of is the revised start time of the school day. **Period 1 will start at 8:45am**, gates are open from 8am - please support your child in arriving in plenty of time to be in lesson ready to learn at 8:45am. Gates will be closed at 8:40am to ensure all students are on site ready for their first subject lesson. If students are late they will be required to enter at our main reception area. The Department for Education have set out instructions on the expectation of a school week from September. Our learning structure and curriculum delivery model will not change however, this increase in time will allow students to transition more smoothly to lesson 2 as we now build in a 5 minute movement time.

#### School Day Timings: September 2023

Times	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
<b>Entrance to site</b>	Lillington Road	Park Road	Lillington Road	Park Road	Front of School	Front of School	Front of School
<b>Bike Sheds</b>	Design Front	Design Rear	Lillington Road Gate	Lillington Road Gate	Front of School	Front of School	Front of School
<b>Before School</b>	Gym	Basketball Courts	Courtyard	Courtyard	Courtyard	Sixth Form	Sixth Form
<b>08:45 to 09:45</b>	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
<b>09:45 to 09:50</b>	Movement Time	Movement Time	Movement Time	Movement Time	Movement Time	Movement Time	Movement Time
<b>09:50 to 10:50</b>	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
<b>10:50 to 11:20</b>	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
<b>11:20 to 12:20</b>	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
<b>12:20 to 12:50</b>	Lunch	Period 4	Lunch	Period 4	Lunch	Period 4	Lunch
<b>12:50 to 13:20</b>	Period 4		Period 4		Lunch		Period 4
<b>13:20 to 13:50</b>		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
<b>13:50 to 14:15</b>	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Tutor Time	Tutor Time
<b>14:15 to 15:15</b>	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5
<b>Exit from site</b>	Lillington Road	Park Road	Lillington Road	Park Road	Front of School	Front of School	Front of School

## Curriculum information and Homework

Following the homework consultation we conducted last term and the feedback received via our Subject Evening questionnaires, we are putting in place some changes for September in response to your feedback that we hope will enhance our current practice. Thank you to all of you have responded to requests for feedback throughout the year as this is valuable to us as we work together to support all students. The views we obtained from parents/carers regarding homework were exceptionally varied and we have worked to create an updated policy that reflects this as much as possible.

Our main aim is to ensure that information outlining the journey of the curriculum and homework is as clear as possible for parents/carers. In September we will launch a revised homework policy that will be much clearer around the amount of homework you can expect your child to receive as well as information on optional, additional homework for those wanting to access further practice/support or to extend their learning further.

We will also be launching new documents on the website called Curriculum Overviews which will work alongside the Learning Journeys already available on the [Curriculum pages](#) to give a more detailed view of the curriculum in each subject, including:

- Information on what each topic is about
- Assessment opportunities
- Outlines of the types of homework in each subject
- Optional homework resources
- Literacy links.

More detail will follow at the start of next term.

Have a great weekend.



Mike Lowdell  
Head Teacher