

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wonder if you are also thinking or even worrying about what schools will be like in September. As we wait for government guidance on the type of provision we are permitted to have on site, I would like to dedicate the rest of this newsletter to the preparations that we are able to make. There are a number of changes to our usual school practice of which all parents need to be aware:

### Dates for the Start of Term

I have decided to change the start of term for some of our pupils:

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Inset and Induction – Staff Only
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Planning Curriculum and Operational - Staff Only
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	New Pupil Induction – Year 7 and 12 pupils only
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	New Pupil Induction – Year 7 and 12 pupils only
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	All Year groups

We have not been able to have the Induction Days during the summer term for any of the staff or pupils who are joining WGGs in September and Induction is vital to making the transition successful. Online induction has taken place but introducing everybody to the site and to each other can only take place in school.

The short delay to the start of term may help any parents who have been affected by the quarantine expectations necessitated by travel outside of the UK. Your daughter is expected to be ready for school from the 7<sup>th</sup> September and as such, you do need to check on the travel arrangements that you have made and contact your daughter's Head of Year if you believe there may be any problems.

### Remote or on site learning

Regardless of how teaching will be delivered from September, some form of remote learning may be necessary. Each department is now reviewing their curriculum offer and adapting their delivery to ensure that whether a girl is in the classroom or at home, she will have access to excellent teaching. The staff continue to develop their skills in using Microsoft Teams - uploading resources, facilitating the submission and return of work and some are trailing small group tuition.

### Have Your Own Device

To ease the transition of learning between home and school, it is increasingly evident that if a girl is able to use a device to access the Internet and hand in work remotely, then it reduces both time and stress. It is for this reason we have decided to allow all pupils to have a device in school from September. I would like to emphasise that it is not compulsory for your daughter to have a device and if she does not have a device then she still be able to access all parts of each lesson. This is a change in policy that we had planned to introduce after a long period of consultation; the pandemic however, has pre-empted this process. If after analysis, it does prove that this change in school practice makes learning or teaching easier, then we could consider make this a transition to **Bring Your Own Device** by September 2021.

I have not changed the policy on mobile phones for Year 7 to 11 and as such any device should be one that does not have 3, 4 or eventually 5G capabilities or has this disabled. Girls will only be

permitted to access the Internet through the school network and must not be able to use the mobile network.

If your daughter has a device or you are considering investing in a device then I have included a basic guide to the types of devices that are appropriate and a copy will be available on the parent area of the website. For families that will struggle to provide their daughter with a device for financial reasons, we are investigating ways in which one could be provided. Unfortunately, the companies that offer leasing deals that we have investigated, have had terms and conditions that we believe are unacceptable and we are searching for alternative and more appropriate routes.

Over the next few weeks and certainly by September we will have rewritten our IT and Acceptable Use policies to incorporate this change in the school and I hope to keep you informed as much as possible as we prepare for your daughter's return to school.

### Uniform

Over the summer, I know you may be buying new uniform for your growing daughters and so I have included an updated Uniform List in this week's Parentmail. I know that the many months of not following a dress code may mean that some girls will need to be reminded of the following:

- No visible piercings, except for one in each ear, are permitted. Any facial piercings will need to have healed and be left without a stud for the start of term.
- Hair colour must be natural.

### Congratulations

Well done to Harshini Saravanan and Miss Mughal who have raised £2099.91 through Just Giving as a result of the fantastic online Fusion

Congratulations to Emma McRae Y12 who was 'Highly Commended' in the [Young Fashion Designer UK 2020](#) Competition. She created this mood board and designed a capsule collection based on her chosen time period. Impressive work!

Best wishes

Miss Tai

