

8th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the start of a new academic year, we are delighted to welcome back our new year 8 students. This upcoming term will feel different, but I want to assure you that we have been working tirelessly to make it as positive an experience as possible. We are all aware of the importance of getting all of our children and young people back into education and we wanted to take this opportunity to outline the additional support in place this academic year within the academy. New systems, start times and expectations have been shared with students now that they have returned and will soon become routine as we all adjust to the 'new normal'. At the heart of these changes are the safety of our young people and staff within the academy.

Despite the challenges that we face, we want all of our young people accessing their education and we remain committed to ensuring that when our students end their journey at the academy that they stand as first amongst equals. In these unprecedented times, students may feel anxious or worried about returning to the academy. To help support our young people we have secured the services of Butterfly Counselling. This service will be accessible to all students and available Monday to Friday within the Academy. In addition to this, our support structure for Year 8 has grown over the summer. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. MacBlain back from maternity as she continues her role as Student Progress Leader of Year 8. Mr. Advani will continue as a Student Progress Leader of Year 8. Year 8 students will also now have two Year Team 360's as we welcome Miss Chapman to the pastoral team. Mr. Read will continue in his post as a Year Team 360 of Year 8.

As our young people return to full time education, it represents a challenge for our whole community. As a year team, we would like to express our gratitude for your support and patience during this pandemic. It is in times like these that we rely on working together and we look forward to another academic year of offering our support to the community that we serve and providing the education that its young people deserve.

Kind regards

The Year 8 team

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