

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year! It has been a delight to welcome our young people back to school over the past two days and we have been particularly pleased to welcome the 240 children who have joined us in Year 7. They began with a mixture of nervousness and excitement but have settled well, successfully adapting our new procedures and protocols.

Although we are pleased with how our systems have worked to date it is clear that everyone involved will need to adapt to the new environment. As I mentioned to the children in Year 7, functioning in a bubble will mean that they do not have to be concerned about navigating the school between each lesson or interacting with older children. However, for our students in Years 8-13 the experience will feel very different as it has also done for the staff.

The protocols and procedures are extensive. However, we have asked everyone on site to maintain a focus on the three key systems of control. These are hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene (catch it, kill it, bin it) and social distancing. Hand hygiene is about cleaning all parts of the hands effectively using soap and water and/or hand sanitiser as well as doing so frequently. It is the frequency that I believe will require regular reminders in the first instance as this will involve every occasion that anyone, staff or students, arrive at school, enter a new room or building, prior to eating, after eating and after using the toilet facilities.

Social distancing will take place, as far as possible, by maintaining year group bubbles. However, it is important to stress that students should not make physical contact with each other or share equipment or food. It will be essential that students remain at least 2 metres away from staff at all times.

As the term progresses I have no doubt that some groups and individuals will be requested to self-isolate as a result of being contacted through the NHS track and trace system, which may lead to students and/or staff being absent from school. At this time, anyone will be required to self-isolate if they develop symptoms, have recently returned from a country that is not exempt from UK travel restrictions or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (track and trace). The guidance for each of these scenarios does differ slightly, which can lead to confusion in some instances. Given this, we have put together a simple summary based on the current guidance that outlines the self-isolation guidance for situations where you may have travelled abroad as well as if someone in your household has been asked to self-isolate through the track and trace system. We hope that this will help you to understand whether or not you should send your child to school. The document is available via the school website and can also be accessed [here](#).

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**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

Finally, this week I would like to again request that parents and carers do not park, drop off or pick up their child on Warren Road at the start and end of the day. As mentioned in my previous communications, we are encouraging as many children as possible to walk or cycle to school (we have designated cycle racks for each year group within their bubbles). If you do choose to drive within the local vicinity at these busy times then please be respectful to residents by not parking across driveways and avoiding confrontations at all costs.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Mullings', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**