

Friday 4 September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Start of Term Arrangements – Middle School

I hope you and your families are well and have managed to have a break over the summer. I also hope that students are excited to return to school next week.

The Headmaster wrote to you on 21 August outlining the plans for the reopening of the whole College and I do hope you have taken the time to read through the brochure and think through what the plans will mean and look like for students as we return.

A few reminders of the new procedures. On Monday 7 September, Year 10 students should enter the school via the Bridge Door between 0840-0850, and Year 11 students enter from the West Door between 0840-0850. Students should not use lockers but go directly to their form rooms, having already taken coats off as they arrived and stowed these carefully in their bags, which students must keep with them through the day. All students will begin the day with an hour's tutor time, getting up to speed with the new routines and changes to the day, followed by Break, and then timetabled lessons begin for all in period 3.

The allocation of form rooms is as follows:

10F: 207	11F: 526
10G: 210	11G: 205
10H: 216	11H: 212
10I: 211	11I:302
10J: 222	11J: 313
10K: 316	11K:314

Please also note that students should bring a water bottle, hand sanitiser, and a face covering. Face coverings are required in communal areas, which includes corridors and the entrance gate, and students should prepare this detail over the weekend.

On Tuesday 8 September, students will enter the school at the same time, 0840-0850, and using the same entrance as Monday, before entering lessons directly at 0850. A student's morning registration will therefore be taken in Lesson 1. In some ways, the new routine is beneficial for students in their teenage years: a later morning start has been shown by some studies to advantage teenagers, so I hope that the changes – where your family's travel plans allow for it, and I know not all routines will – will assist to a degree. However, lateness to school means lost time for the individual and interrupted learning for others so, amid all the difficulties of the current time, please can every effort be made to arrive within the scheduled time. You will also note that tutor time now routinely takes place for Middle School students in the afternoon: during the first weeks of school, the focus here will be on making the transition out of Remote Learning and into the GCSE mindset, with focus on learning behaviours at school and at home which will lead to success.



There will inevitably be some challenges and elements of school life which are only properly understood once we return next week, but I have complete confidence that the Middle School will seek to make the most of the opportunities that being in school provides. To reflect on this, I will write to all of you again next Friday and share with you on how the school's plans have turned into reality during the first week, and give advice on how everyone can prepare for the term ahead, highlighting the key upcoming events.

Thank you to the parents who have already been in touch where siblings begin at staggered start times: we are able to provide supervision in the LRC once permission has been sought and numbers checked. Please do contact your Head of Year or Form Tutor this weekend if this needs to be actioned and we will seek to support you.

Finally, if you recognise improvements which can reasonably be suggested over the coming weeks, please do communicate these to your child's Form Tutor and these can be considered at the start of term. We are excited to be back creating a forward-thinking community which inspires and supports individuals to thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Paul O'Dwyer
Head of Middle School