Thursday, 16th April 2026

Dear Parents,

RE: Update for Year 7, 8 and 9 Families – Learning Arrangements for Next Week

Following the recent Ministry of Education announcement regarding the reopening of schools, I would like to provide a further update for families of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students regarding learning arrangements for the week beginning Sunday 19 April.

As part of the school's careful return to on-site learning, we are currently operating with limited on-site capacity while we manage the staged return of all year groups. A phased approach allows us to ensure that staffing, timetabling and whole-school systems are fully established and running smoothly before all secondary students return to campus.

This approach is not about prioritising one age group over another. Rather, it allows us to bring students back in a way that ensures the school environment is fully prepared, calm and well organised when younger students return.

Our intention is very much that Years 7, 8 and 9 will return to school from Sunday 26 April, and we will continue to keep families updated as preparations progress over the coming week.

Online Learning Next Week

During the week beginning Sunday 19 April, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will continue learning online.

Lessons will continue to follow the live timetable structure, with teachers delivering lessons in real time as the normal approach. In many cases these lessons will be delivered from school as staff return to campus and prepare for the wider reopening of the secondary school.

As always, if a teacher is unavoidably absent, work may occasionally be provided through structured tasks on Teams. However, staff absence across the secondary school is currently low, and our expectation is that the large majority of lessons will continue to be delivered live as students have experienced in recent weeks.

We know that online learning requires a great deal of focus from students and support from families at home, and we are very grateful for the patience and cooperation shown by our community during this period.

Online Learning Timetable

From next week, students in Years 7–9 will follow a **slightly earlier start to the school day**, aligning the timetable with the structure that will operate once all students return to campus.

Registration
08:00 – 08:15

Period 1
08:15 – 08:55

Period 2
09:00 – 09:40

Break
09:40 – 10:00

Period 3
10:00 – 10:40

Period 4
10:45 – 11:25

Break
11:25 – 11:45

Period 5
11:45 – 12:25

Period 6
12:30 – 13:10

Independent Study / Learning Support
13:10 – 14:00

The final session of the day provides students with time to review learning, complete assignments and seek additional guidance from teachers where required.

Enrichment Programme

As in previous terms, Tuesdays will continue to run with a slightly shorter timetable, with students attending Periods 1–4 only. This has always been part of our weekly structure, as Tuesday afternoons are normally used for staff professional development.

During this period next week, our teachers will be using the time to support assessment preparation and academic review with the examination year groups who are currently back in school.

For Year 7, 8 and 9 students learning online next week, Miss Lulu Martins, our Head of Key Stage 3, has prepared an enrichment pack which will be shared with students. These activities are designed to complement students' learning and can be completed during the periods 5 and 6 on Tuesday, as well as during the usual Wednesday enrichment slot.

These activities are intended to provide students with interesting and creative opportunities to extend their learning, while maintaining the normal rhythm of the school week.

Looking Ahead

Many of our younger students have told their teachers how much they are looking forward to returning to school, seeing their friends again and resuming their normal routines.

Our staff feel exactly the same. Schools are places where young people learn best together — building friendships, developing confidence and engaging directly with their teachers.

Our aim is therefore to welcome Years 7, 8 and 9 back onto campus from Sunday 26 April, and we will share further updates with families over the coming week as preparations continue.

We very much appreciate the support of our Year 7–9 families during this short transition week while we prepare to welcome all students back to campus.

With warm regards,

Samantha Reynolds

Head of Secondary