

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

7 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Re. Parental Update - Autumn Term 2022**

Now that we have had students back for a week, I thought I would write to you to update you all with how things have been going in school. I have been overwhelmed with how positive our students have been since returning from the summer break. There is a great buzz around the place as our students actively participate in their learning and face the challenges set for them by their teachers. The corridors are full of positive, polite, and mature young people and it reminds me again what a privilege it is to work in this school and serve this great community.

#### **Y7 and Y12 Students**

Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start and are already showing the ambition in their learning and the sorts of Character that will lead them to great success in their time with us. They have been involved in many induction activities and really given it their all. I had a wonderful afternoon last week watching the students on a scavenger hunt as part of their team building exercises, enjoying the smiles and laughter as they learned all about our building. Year 12 also had their induction last week and are now in lessons. We have again filled the majority of our Year 12 spaces with Ex-Year 11 students following their brilliant results which shows the faith they have put in us. The step up to Sixth Form is always a really challenging time but they have already settled into the routine and are showing the benefit of all our work on Independence in the last few years.

#### **Local News**

Some of you may be aware of some tensions that overspilled following a cricket match last week and I understand that this is causing some of you distress. I would like to reassure you that we have seen no evidence of any tension or conflict in school and that we have remained a calm, inclusive and civil community. I would urge you, if you have any concerns to be in touch with your child's Head of Year and we will remain extra vigilant in school for any suggestions of unrest.

#### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

I have also received a request from the local community to remind you about drop off and pick up times at the school. We are a very large school and therefore have a large amount of traffic that builds up in a short amount of time at the start and end of the day. Could I ask that if dropping your child off, you do not enter the school car park and drop your child away from the school so they can walk to the school gates themselves and wait for school to start. At the end of the day, please again avoid waiting in either the school or leisure centre car parks and avoid parking on the white lines outside the school. Yesterday a child from another local school was hurt because of the high volume of traffic and it is important that we spread the traffic out if we are to keep everyone safe. So again, please ask your child to meet you a short distance away from school.

Finally, I know that outside of school there is much to be anxious about as we move into winter. A new Prime Minister, inflation, and fuel costs to name just three. What I am confident of however is that, like we proved in the pandemic, this is a community strong enough to face these challenges while still ensuring that our young people reach their huge potential. We have made a great start and I look forward to continuing to work with you across the year.

Kind regards,

**Mr K. Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**