



17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we head towards the end of term, I just want to thank you yet again for your support. We held the final Parent Forum of the term this week, which was very well attended again, and it was great to see a mix of new and experienced Parent Forum attendees. The minutes are always published on our website. We have decided to move to a Parent Forum each half term next year, and in the Autumn term these meetings will continue to be held remotely on Zoom.

It has been another busy week both on site and remotely - 70 students in Year 7-11 are now being supported as part of our on-site supervision and mentoring provision, Year 10 have been attending their second week of core subject and tutor sessions, Year 9 have been coming in for their social bubble tutor mentoring sessions, alongside our Stay at Home activities and live lessons. This week we also ran our first ever Virtual Induction Programme, with Year 6 children invited to a virtual Induction complete with assembly tutor session and live lessons.

End of term arrangements:

Our last day of term is Friday 25th July and the school year will finish for students at 12.30pm. Next week we are running Year 10 targeted Specialism intervention sessions and Year 8 social bubble tutor sessions on site – Year 8 and 10 parents will have received a separate email with information about these sessions.

Learning activities on google classroom and live lessons will take place as normal next week, with the deadline for submitting work for this year at 11.30pm on Friday. (Work can still be submitted after this point but there is no expectation that teachers provide support or feedback during the holiday).

Next week we are running our first ever Virtual Graduation! Every student in Year 7-10 will receive a personalised certificate in recognition of the resilience they have demonstrated this year. These and our annual trophies and cups will be presented during the live tutor sessions scheduled for next week. Year 8 will be invited to a live session on Friday, and we will also be holding an event for some of our Year 11 students who we would like to thank for their contribution this year. Parents are welcome to join their child for this session.

There will be a year group and whole school end of term celebration message posted on year group google classrooms next Friday, so please encourage your child to watch these, and some tutor groups may opt to have a final end of term live tutor session, but please be aware that due to the other activities running on this day not all tutors will be available to deliver this. We are aware that the end of the school year will feel different this year, but hope that the activities and events provided help your child to mark the end of their school year.

Getting ready for next year:

We want all of our students to be ready to hit the ground running in September, and I know that parents are keen to support with this. For some students, that may involve having a complete break, but for others spending some of their time on some challenges and activities provided by their teachers may be helpful. We are providing optional "September ready" learning activities on our google classrooms as an independent learning package during the holiday. These cover a range of things and students may select which of the activities are useful for them to complete.



Further guidance will be provided for students and parents next week on how to prepare for the new school year, and we will provide any updates as well as some reminders during the second part of the summer holiday. There is of course a lot of information to take on board, and I have provided key updates that are important for you to be aware of.

School term and holiday dates 2020 - 21:

Please find below our term dates for the next academic year.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/128959/school-holiday-and-term-dates-2020-21.pdf>

Our INSET Days for 20 - 21 are as follows:

- Tuesday, 1st September 2020
- Wednesday, 2nd September 2020
- Friday, 16th October 2020
- Friday, 12th February 2021
- Monday, 5th July 2021

On these days the school is closed to students for staff training.

Re-opening School Arrangements:

The government has published guidance to schools with regard to re-opening to all students full time from the start of next term.

One of the absolute highlights of the last few weeks has been welcoming back growing numbers of students who have not been on site since September and we are very excited about re-opening our doors to all of our students again. Successfully providing the best possible educational provision to all of our students whilst minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission will involve every single member of our school community playing their part and following our protective measures – the safety and wellbeing of every member of our community is dependent on the actions of everyone else within it.

The protective measures that all schools are required to follow are:

Prevention:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Response to any infection:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Please find attached a more detailed document which explains the measures we will have in place. We will be talking to all of the students about the changes we have made in school and the reasons for them, and would ask that you read the attached information carefully. There is a lot to take in, and we will be adding further detail next week and before the start of term.

In order to implement our protective measures plan, we have made a number of temporary adjustments.

Timings of the school day from September:

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	
9.00-9.15	Tutor time	Tutor time	Tutor time			
9.15-10.05	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	9.15-10.05
10.05-10.20	Break	Break	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	10.05-10.55
10.20-11.10	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Break	Break	Break	10.55-11.10
11.10-12.00	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	11.10-12.00
12.00-12.30	Lunch	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	12.00-12.50
12.30-1.20	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	12.50-1.20
1.20-2.10	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	1.20-2.10
2.10-3.00	Lesson 6	Lesson 6	Lesson 6	Lesson 6	Lesson 6	2.10-3.00
3.00-3.20	<i>Supervision</i>	<i>Supervision</i>	<i>Supervision</i>	Tutor time	Tutor time	3.00-3.15

As part of our Protective Measures plan we are required to keep students in Year Group “bubbles” and as a result, students cannot all have break and lunch at the same time. We are also required to spread out the times that students arrive at and leave school. We are therefore proposing the temporary variation to our school day outlined above. There is no alteration to the amount of teaching time, but breaks and lunchtimes are shorter as we will need less time for fewer students to eat, and there will need to be more restrictions on students due to our required protective measures and the fact that lessons will be going on at the same time. Enrichment activities will take place at the end of the school day (or virtually) as it will be difficult to offer these during lunchtime while lessons are also going on.

The school day will be from 9am–3pm for Year 7-9 and 9.15am-3.15pm for Year 10-11. We will offer supervision for Key Stage 3 students from 3-3.20pm if required, and will explain to parents how they can access this provision, but hope that the majority of our Key Stage 3 students will be able to go home at 3pm unless they are staying at school to attend an enrichment activity. We hope to offer breakfast in our Dining Hall before the start of school, but may not have food available to purchase at break time in the first instance. I will confirm the arrangements for the cafeteria as soon as possible.

Whilst we appreciate that this is a change that will require an adjustment, we hope that students and staff may also feel that there are benefits, for example fewer students accessing the Dining Hall at the same time, and a slightly later start to the school day for our older students – there is research which suggests that this is a good thing at this stage of their development!

We have consulted with staff, and if parents or carers would like to comment on our intended school day from September please email the school office at white@whptrust.org by 3pm on Monday 20th July. I will confirm the school day model by the end of next week.

We will aim to revert to our normal school day as soon as we are able to, but you will appreciate that I am not yet in a position to say when that will be. In the meantime, if we decide that we would like to make any of the changes permanent we will carry out a formal consultation.

School Uniform Expectations:

The Governing Body have agreed the following permanent change to the school uniform policy: Coats worn to school must be a sensible waterproof coat in a **single colour** with no significant lettering or large logos. No denim or leather jackets, tracksuit tops, hoodies, or fashion jackets please. There is no longer a requirement for coats to be a dark colour.

We are expecting student to wear school uniform with effect from September. However, to support parents in managing the infection risk and to support families who are experiencing a reduced income, the Governing Body have agreed the following temporary variations to our uniform policy:

- ***School blazers and ties are optional***
- ***Plain black V neck jumpers or cardigans may be worn as an alternative to a V neck jumper or cardigan with the school logo***

All other uniform requirements remain the same including PE uniform.

We will review this variation on a half termly basis and give as much notice as possible when we return to our normal uniform policy.

End of term farewells:

At the end of this term we are saying goodbye to a number of colleagues:

Mrs Stoppiello, Teaching Assistant, who is leaving us after 6 years

Mr Alexander, leaving us after 11 years as Site Officer

Ms Evans-Olano, Ms Creasy and Mr Kinney who have job-shared Mrs Arnold's maternity cover in MFL

Ms Burnett, who has supported the English team this year

Mr Chapman, who is leaving us after 2 years in the Maths Department

Mr Mistry, who is leaving us after 3 years in the Science Department

Mrs Goldsmith, who is leaving us after 5 years in the Science Department

Mrs Towner, who is leaving the English, Media and Photography Department, having first joined Alderman White 15 years ago.

I know you will join me in thanking all of these colleagues for their contributions to our wonderful school community, and wishing them well in their future adventures.

New staff:

We have a number of new colleagues joining us in September:

Mr Mroczkowski, Senior Site Officer

Ms Kempster, English and Drama Teacher and Year 7 Tutor

Mr Wedgeworth, Music and Musical Enrichment Teacher and Tutor 7 Tutor

Both Mr Wedgeworth and Ms Kempster have completed their teacher training with us this year.

Mr Hallam, Maths Teacher and Year 7 Tutor

Miss Allsop, Science Teacher and Year 9 tutor

Mr Sutton, PE Teacher and Year 11 Tutor

Mr Barker, who we are welcoming back as English and Photography teacher and Year 9 tutor (hopefully he will recognise them from Year 7!)

We are also welcoming back Mrs Arnold and Mrs Armitage-Giles who are both returning from maternity leave next week.

I am sure you will all join me in making our new and returning staff feel welcome and a part of our school community.

And finally, I hope you enjoy the live premier of our first ever Virtual Cabaret taking place in two parts at 8.00pm tonight and tomorrow on our Alderman White You Tube Channel. A massive thank you and well done to everyone who has made sure that we are together apart and that the show very much goes on!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Mellors', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Mrs A Mellors
Headteacher