



10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of our first week back in school we wanted to get in touch to update you on what a fantastic start our students have made.

There has been a real buzz around the site as we are now at capacity, with all year groups back and enjoying some of the 'normal' routines which they will have clearly missed during the period of COVID-19 restrictions. The attitude of the vast majority of students has been excellent and it has been great to see the gains made during our Step Up initiative support students' progress during this first week back.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone for their support with the success of our on-site testing process throughout this week. Our dedicated testing team have conducted over 2500 on-site tests, which have enabled all year groups to return to lessons as quickly as possible. As of 3pm today all students have had their 2 on site tests and as such, from this Sunday 12 September, students will resume twice weekly home testing. Text reminders will be sent each Sunday and Wednesday with the links to how to record their results with both school and the NHS.

We know that our buildings have always been our Achilles' heel, but over the summer we have tried to do what we can to brighten up key areas. A number of blocks have been painted and re-carpeted, along with new blinds around the site to support calmer and more consistent learning environments. As we move into the autumn term, we are really excited to see some work being done to support temperature control in D and E block, alongside the resurfacing of our PE courts which we know will be a big improvement to our sports facilities.

Your support as parents is invaluable and never has this been more evident as it was throughout the pandemic. Over the next half term, we have a couple of crucial events that will hopefully support us to continue to grow as the leading school in the local area. On Thursday 30 September 2021, we host our Y6 open evening and on Thursday 14 October 2021, we host our sixth form open evening. Your support in continuing to publicly endorse our growing reputation will be crucial to future student recruitment. This in turn will continue to afford us the opportunity to invest in the school's staffing, buildings and infrastructure so that the future for your children is even brighter.

With the return to a normal school day and timings, we are back to supporting over 1300 students leaving the site at 2.55pm. The students are conducting themselves very patiently as they leave the site, despite the difficulties of narrow pathways. What is restricting the exit and slowing things down, as well as making it dangerous, is the number of parental vehicles being parked on Kirkley Drive.

Unless there is a physical, emotional or learning need which inhibits students travelling independently, please do not collect children from this area. Instead, we advise that you park on the industrial estate where there is greater access and space and arrange to collect/drop off your children there.



As we move into next week, we will see the return of some exciting opportunities, including our comprehensive extra-curricular activities, our new lunchtime sports clubs, the reopening of our new and improved library and the relaunch of our morning take-away breakfast bar. All of this information will be shared with the students next week.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Achievement Leader or Assistant Achievement Leader.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Huntington'.

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jones'.

Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal