

### Head Teacher's update to all parents August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

I hope you have all been able to enjoy some of the lovely weather we have had this summer and are now ready to come back to school!

We are sending huge congratulations to our Year 11 students, who have achieved fantastic GCSE results and we wish them every success with their future plans. Year 10 have also achieved great results.

I am writing to remind you of a few points before we go back to school in September. You may like to look again at the long letter I sent you in July - if you have recycled it already it is on our website!

Firstly, students will be returning as follows:

**Year 7**                                      **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 8.45am**  
**Years 8, 9, 10, 11**                      **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8.45am**

**EVERYONE** will need a **packed lunch** on their first day back; to be in full, correct school uniform (named please!!) and to have their SMART START equipment which has been extended because of Covid as follows:

- *At least one pen - blue or black plus purple and green for marking*
- *Pencil*
- *Pencil sharpener*
- *Eraser*
- *Ruler*
- *Colouring pens or pencils*
- *Glue stick*
- *Maths equipment*
- *Safety scissors*
- *Pack of highlighters for marking work*
- *Tissues*
- *Hand sanitiser*

*All in a named pencil case please!*

#### **IN ADDITION:**

**Year 7** will need their PE kit

**Year 8** will need to bring back their locker keys

**Students who borrowed a laptop during lockdown will need to return it to Mrs Gaston please.**

**There will be no snacks or drinks on sale at break, so students will need to bring their own. Lunch will be ordered weekly and delivered to year group areas.**

### **Well being**

We know that, whilst it will be exciting to be back at school and students are looking forward to seeing their friends, for many it may also feel quite daunting. None of us have been used to being surrounded by people for a long time; at first, the days may seem long and tiring too. The majority of students worked hard during lockdown and have kept up with their studies, but inevitably there will be some gaps and this may cause anxiety. Staff understand these worries and are planning lessons which will help students to get back into a familiar routine and to revise and consolidate work which they may be unsure of. It might mean that a bit of extra catch up work is needed at first, but we know that our programme of online lessons and work during lockdown means that everyone should feel confident about coming back to school and coping in class. Mrs Hart and Mrs Shilcock, our Learning Managers, will be on hand to support students if any issues arise. There is wellbeing information on our website which gives some advice and links to resources and organisations which may be of help, if you are concerned.

### **Behaviour expectations**

We are doing everything we can to try to ensure our staff and students are safe; it will be a joint effort between us all at home and at school. It's really important that students understand that where we have had to make changes to our normal practice (eg in the lunch system or staying in one area at break and lunch) it is to keep everyone as safe as we can. Keeping hands clean, staying 'at arm's length' from other people, being responsible for yourself and your actions and being considerate of other people's needs (eg by keeping classrooms and shared facilities clean and tidy) is an important part of belonging to our community. This behaviour is part of our normal expectation of our students, and we are rarely disappointed! However, inconsiderate or unsafe behaviour or behaviour which damages school property will be taken very seriously, and sanctions will be imposed. It would be very helpful to us if, as parents and carers, you can talk to your child about how they will need to behave once they are back in a situation which involves far more people than they have been used to during lockdown.

### **Transport**

You should receive a letter regarding school transport with this letter - if you have any queries, please address them to School Transport at the local authority or Yeomans bus company as we do not organise transport. The traffic in the village and down the lane to school is very busy; please follow our 'one way' system and drop your child off at the top gate if you bring them to school, rather than dropping them off in the village. The main car park is for staff use only; this is to avoid pedestrians and cars leaving school via the same entrance. Most parents find it more convenient to drop their child off or pick them up from the village; we usually have staff on duty in the lane, but still expect students to walk down the lane sensibly and with an awareness of other road users. Please be considerate to the residents of Peterchurch if you are waiting in the village; it can become extremely busy especially at the end of the day.

The timings of the school day will not change - on arrival at school students should go to their designated Year Group area and then straight to lesson 1 at 8.45am where they will be registered. **On the first day back, students will go to their tutors at 8.45am.** School will finish at 3.25pm as normal.

The Year Group areas are as follows:

Year 7	Front Lawn
Year 8	Front Court
Year 9	Dining Room & Courtyard
Year 10	Grass between Maths & Science & Top Court (Maths rooms if wet)
Year 11	New outdoor area built by Border Oak!

**Face coverings**

At present government guidance is that face coverings do not need to be worn by staff or students in school. However, if your child wears a face covering on their way to school, they will need to remove it carefully and keep it in a sealed bag during the day. They should wash their hands after removing it and try to touch both the covering and their face as little as possible. Staff may wear visors in some contexts, especially Learning Support Assistants and teachers who may need to be in close proximity to students eg to ensure that they are using equipment correctly. There may also be times when we request that visitors to school use face coverings too; at all times visitors will be expected to adhere to social distancing and not to enter the school site if they have any Covid-19 symptoms. If you need to come into school, please let the school office know in advance. I have attached our Covid guidance for visitors to this letter.

**Attendance**

We expect all our students to return to school in September unless there are exceptional circumstances which you have discussed with us. All absences will be followed up in the normal way. If you think you have been in contact with a Covid-19 sufferer please let us know; we will ask for their name and contact details so that we can try to ascertain whether any of our other students have been affected. You will need to follow public health guidance and test for Covid-19 as soon as possible; if the test is negative then your child can return to school. If your child or anyone they have been in close contact with should test positive, then please inform us immediately as we will need to take action with regard to other students they will have been in contact with.

We cannot undertake to provide online lessons at the same time as full time schooling, but staff will be uploading lesson PowerPoints and tasks on to Google Classroom so that students can complete work at home. We will be using Google Classroom for most homework tasks; more information on how you will be able to access this will be sent home in September.

**Future closures**

Should we have to close school again due to a local lockdown, we will revert to our online lessons using Google Classroom. We will make sure in September that all our new students and staff understand how to use the system and that everyone else has a refresher! We may also be able to offer some training for parents remotely. Parents and carers may also like to think about how you would manage at home if children need to use a computer or laptop every day for lessons.

We are constantly reviewing and updating our procedures. Our latest risk assessments will be available on our website once they have been agreed by the directors. You will also find copies of letters and any other information we have sent home.

I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Best wishes

Sue Gaston  
Head Teacher