

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to begin by thanking Year 9 for the calm and sensible way they have settled back into the new term as we are now a little way into term 2 and 12 weeks into the school year. They have adapted well to the new buildings and systems that have been necessary to keep everyone safe. Those students who have needed to isolate have shown a mature approach to blended learning and it has been a pleasure to hear how well the girls have been engaging with their lessons whilst isolating at home or learning in the classroom.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your daughter for supporting us with the necessary health and safety measures we have in place. As you are aware, face coverings are required to be worn in all indoor communal areas, such as corridors, to ensure the safety of all students and staff. If there is any reason why your daughter can not wear a face covering please do not hesitate to contact me. The introduction of year group lanyards has been highly successful, and these are now part of our uniform policy and should be worn on a daily basis, so could I please ask that your daughter checks every morning to make sure she has hers. Could I also ask you to emphasise the importance of social distancing, including at lunch and break times, and on the way to and from school, even in their year group 'bubbles'.

Our expectations in relation to attendance, time keeping and uniform remain high, however, if during these difficult times there is an issue relating to uniform please do not hesitate to contact me. We appreciate your support ensuring that the uniform is appropriate and that skirt length is knee length and shoes are to be worn instead of trainers. The school's attendance target is 97%, so I ask for your support in ensuring that your daughter is in school at every possible opportunity. Again, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns regarding your daughter's attendance.

Within PSHE and tutor time Year 9 students have been studying important topics such as well-being and relationships. In term 2 for PSHE, the students are starting to look at families, parenting, homelessness and how to resolve conflict. We will continue delivering sessions on wellbeing as part of our tutor time work and will also introduce workshops on diversity and equality which are crucial in building a fair and inclusive school community.

If your daughter is feeling worried about anything please ask her to speak to her tutor or myself and we will help to support her through this uncertain time. There are also a number of wellbeing activities available on the student section of the school website which you might find useful to access.

Wishing you all the very best and hope you have enjoyed the extended weekend at this busy time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ita Coverdale  
Head of Year 9 Elm

