



8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### End of Term Arrangements

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of a Summer Term which has been like no other. I would like to thank all of our students for their amazing resilience and determination throughout this extremely difficult period. It has been wonderful to see the creative work which they have been producing at home – a great tribute to their parents and carers who have supported their learning so effectively.

I would also like to pay tribute to our staff who have worked so hard to make sure that every student has appropriate home learning and support in each of their subjects. I hope the phone-calls home have helped all of our students realise that they are still very much at the heart of our school community and the focus of our thoughts and attention. I also hope that students are enjoying participating in our new interactive on-line lessons delivered through Microsoft Teams.

Our recent school-based Year 10 lessons have been extremely well-attended, and the feedback from students and staff has been very positive. We are all looking forward to welcoming Year 12 back into school so that they can resume face-to-face teaching in each of their Sixth Form courses before the Summer.

As always at the end of a Summer Term there are staff who will be moving-on to new challenges. This year these staff include Mrs Porter (Head of Science), Mr Henshaw (Lead Practitioner in Maths), Ms Crawford (English teacher), Ms Harris (English teacher) and Ms Hartley (Business Studies teacher). I would like to thank them all for their service to the school and for the care and attention they have always shown to your children. Despite the lockdown period, we have still been able to operate our recruitment processes and I am delighted to say that we are fully staffed with specialist teachers in every subject for September. Indeed, our staffing will be slightly enlarged next year to cater for increased student numbers as we have a very large Year 7 (185 pupils) joining us in September – a reflection of the strong reputation and continually growing popularity of our school. We are also expecting some significant growth in the size of our Sixth Form, as more and more of our students choose to enter our post-16 provision and we continue to attract increasing numbers of external students because of our strong ethos, and the quality and range of our courses.

Throughout the lockdown period the school has remained open for the children of key workers and some of our vulnerable children. The government has advised schools that this provision should not continue through the Summer, so the last day for these pupils to be in school will be **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**.

I shall be writing again to all families shortly, outlining our plans for welcoming all students back to school in September in line with the recently published Department for Education guidance.

Thank you for your continuing support of the school. I would like to wish all families a relaxing school holiday, but even more importantly at this time, a safe, healthy and happy family break.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Guest  
Headteacher

