



July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin to get ready for the new academic year I want to update you on some changes that will be taking place to the curriculum, tutor time, school buildings and communication during 2018/19.

Tutor Time

- Vertical tutoring will continue for Years 7-10, giving students an opportunity to mix with students from other year groups and discuss topics supporting their personal, social and health education (PSHE).
- Year 11 will be in tutor groups within their own year group, to allow for a more relevant PSHE programme and also bespoke tutor groups specialising in GCSE preparation.
- Sixth Form students will continue to be in vertical groups of Year 12 and 13 but will also have the opportunity to carry out leadership roles, including mentoring Year 11 students and supporting the Year 7-10 vertical tutoring.

Tutor time for all students will now be at the start of the day for 20 minutes. We feel this will provide tutors and the Pastoral Team with more of an opportunity to ensure students are supported and ready for learning that day. The times of the start and end of the day remain the same and the new times, within the school day, are shown at the end of this letter.

Curriculum

We feel it is important, in today's changing world, that we strengthen our PSHE and RE curriculum. We are introducing an additional hour of PSHE once per fortnight for all students in Year 7 and 8. This is in addition to the current Citizenship and RE lesson. We feel this is important to address key issues such as: social networking, personal health, safety and relationships. A topic list will be published on our website. PSHE is also delivered through the curriculum, vertical tutoring and the assembly programme for all year groups.

We will also be introducing a lesson of Religious Education once a fortnight for Year 9. This will cover a broad range of topics including spiritual reflection, philosophy and ethics. This will not lead to a qualification and will be compulsory for all students. A topic list will be published on our website.

School Buildings

As you will be aware from my letter in April, we are working with Warwickshire County Council on the expansion of the school, with a new multiple classroom block due to be installed in the second half of the next academic year. There will be a number of temporary classrooms in place whilst this building work is completed, which will lead to some challenges with rooming and movement around the school whilst building work takes place. I will be writing to students to thank them for their patience. Examination classes will be protected at all times. I will keep you updated as the building plans evolve.

Communication

A lot of work has gone into developing the new reports through Go4Schools in 2017/18 and I hope that you have seen an improvement in the quality of information you have received, combined with the Subject Evenings offered for every year group.

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In 2018/19 we will be further developing our use of Go4Schools and aim to offer parents and carers access to the system in the second half of the academic year, once the new Attendance and Behaviour modules have been introduced.

Please be aware that we also have the Groupcall Xpressions App, through which you can view your child's timetable, attendance and any school texts. Simply download the application to your mobile device to start using it.

We do recognise the need to keep parents and carers updated with other activities that are taking place in school. The range of amazing things happening on a daily basis are captured in photographs on our website. However, we will also be introducing a regular information update leaflet, which will come to you by e mail and will be broken down by year group so you can access the information that is relevant to your child.

In 2018/19 I am also keen to set up a parent/carer group to share views on the school and aspects of our educational provision. This will give an additional opportunity for parents and carers to give their views, which will support school leaders in our aim to continuously improve to give the best possible education for our young people.

May I take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support of the school community.

Yours faithfully

Ian Smith-Childs

Ian Smith-Childs
Headteacher

School Day 2018/2019	
8.45 am-9.05 am	Tutor Time
9.05 am-10.05 am	Period 1
10.05am-11.05 am	Period 2
11.05 am-11.25 am	Break Time
11.25 am-12.25 pm	Period 3
12.25 pm-1.10 pm	Lunch Time
1.10 pm-2.10 pm	Period 4
2.10 pm-3.10 pm	Period 5