



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that we have established ourselves back in school I thought I would make contact and reassure you that it is all very much "business as usual" for our Year 9 students.

After such a long time it has been a genuine pleasure to see the young people back in school, as well as welcoming back the few students who were with us throughout last year. The new lesson timings, break arrangements and one-way systems have been a steep learning curve for students (and staff!) but everyone has responded magnificently to the challenge. Please continue to refer to the detailed document sent home about school reopening if you need a reminder about any of the new arrangements.

We have sent out information about Microsoft Teams and other resources which support homework alongside normal school attendance as well as home learning during the school day if required. We are all at the stage of familiarising ourselves with the different ways this works; there are many advantages for the students to having access to information and resources in this way, well beyond the current situation. If they are trying to use it and struggling, encourage them to keep asking for help.

It is worth the students remembering that in February of this academic year they will begin the process of selecting their Options for GCSE. We will go through this in more detail nearer the time but for the moment I encourage the youngsters to reflect on what subjects and activities they especially like or feel they are good at; there is plenty of choice and we really want them to enjoy what they study at Key Stage 4. Heads of Subject and of course the Careers Department and Form Tutors will all be offering guidance through this process in the months to come.

The best things you can do to support your child in Year 9 remain the same firm foundations they have always been: try and encourage them to have a regular routine at home that give them enough sleep, a balanced diet, exercise and somewhere safe to talk about their experiences and feelings. We are trying to provide these things in school. Teachers are no longer writing praise or concerns in the planners but they are recording these things electronically and we will be in touch by email or phone with our congratulations or concerns as needed. Please continue to look at your child's planner with them, encourage them to have a regular routine for checking their planner and sorting and organising their school bag for the next day. We will be in touch regularly as we confirm dates for feedback and communication during the year, as you will appreciate the picture will keep changing and it is likely much of the provision will be online.

Headteacher: Mr C Burt

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In the meantime, keep in touch in the following ways: • Check the website and follow the school on social media for information and reminders about dates and events. • Contact the Attendance Officer for any matters relating to school attendance – they will pass on pastoral concerns to me. • Contact the Admin team with any subject concerns or general queries and they will pass this on to the right people. • Contact Head of Year, Mr Bean if you have a pastoral concern about your child's overall wellbeing in or out of school.

Despite these difficult times it has been a great start to the new school year and we very much look forward to seeing our young people flourish in this last leg of Key Stage 3.

With kind regards

David Bean
Head of Year 9

Headteacher: Mr C Burt

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