



# ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

## Welcome back to Year 8

At the start of a new term I want to say a huge 'Welcome back' and 'Well done' to the students in Year 8 for the fantastic start they made in their first week back. After such a long time it has been a real joy to see their smiling faces in the school building, 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 are a steep learning curve for students and staff and I am aware this is particularly challenging for students who were only with us for a few months before learning from home.

Please continue to refer to the detailed document sent home about school reopening if you need a reminder about these details. We will be sending out more 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. Teams does not cost students anything to use at home, many tasks do not require a full computer but can be viewed on phones or tablets. 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.

The best things you can do to support your child in Year 8 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. We are enjoying our Year 8 outdoor play space although we miss our regular menu of food, the catering staff are working as creatively as they can within the challenges of social distancing and serving food quickly.

We are still expecting the students to use their planner daily in school to record homework and important information. 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. Thank you for your support in sending the students in the correct uniform, they are looking very smart and it really adds to making school feel more normal.

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. 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, she will pass on pastoral concerns to me.

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Headteacher: Mr C Burt

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

Tel: 01423 885814 • Email: [admin@staidans.co.uk](mailto:admin@staidans.co.uk) • [www.staidans.co.uk](http://www.staidans.co.uk)



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- 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, Dr Holt, if you have a pastoral concern about your child's overall wellbeing in or out of school.

Once again, it's been fantastic meeting the students and beginning the journey of getting to know them and seeing them continue their progress through school.

Warm regards

Dr Lucy Holt  
Head of Year 8

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St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR  
Tel: 01423 885814 • Email: [admin@staidans.co.uk](mailto:admin@staidans.co.uk) • [www.staidans.co.uk](http://www.staidans.co.uk)