



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

July 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As we come to the end of the most unusual of school years, I wanted to say thank you for all your support across the academic year, but particularly since lockdown. It has been a challenging time for everyone, and your support in our efforts to educate our students in such challenging circumstances is greatly appreciated.

We now turn to preparing for September and the good news that all students will be able to attend school from the start of the new academic year. The staff at Fitzharrys are looking forward to seeing everyone back and are working hard to prepare the school for the changes we need to make in line with the government guidance.

These changes will involve quite a lot of work over the summer to get the site ready and create systems to ensure students and staff can work safely when in school. We will communicate with you over the summer to let you know in detail how this will work. This will enable you to help your son/daughter be ready for September. However, I felt it was important to let you know some key details in advance.

Firstly, we will have steps to ensure prevention of potential transmission of Covid-19. This will include a focus on hand hygiene and social distancing where possible, with hand washing/sanitising stations in school at key entry points. There will be year group bubbles and steps to reduce movement of students around the school. This will mean only practical subjects such as Arts, Technology and Science will take place in their normal classrooms, while others will take place in year group allocated classrooms. This will mean that for lessons such as English, Maths, MFL and humanities teachers will be moving to students. Transport to school will be adjusted, with certain year groups travelling together on buses, more details will follow once they are confirmed. We encourage walking and cycling to school whenever possible, though helmets should be worn if students are cycling to school.

Secondly, our school curriculum will not change for the vast majority of students. Subject teachers will make some adjustments to what is taught to ensure key concepts and ideas are covered and will work with students to uncover and repair any gaps in their learning. We will adjust some of our school systems around behaviour and learning to help all involved adapt to the changes we make.



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We will be adjusting our remote learning policy in readiness for any potential future closure that may occur if there is a local outbreak or a second wave. We want to move toward increased use of the OneDrive and recorded lessons if we face a similar situation again. We know that some of you may be considering buying a laptop or digital device to support your child working at home. If this is the case, we recommend buying a device that is readily compatible with Microsoft Office 365.

Lunches and break times will be at the same time but will have year groups located in different zones across the school. Catering will be available again in school, with separate sittings and locations for each year group. Pastoral support will be dispersed to bubbles where possible; this is to enable students to get the support they need.

This is a broad outline of some of the changes we are having to make in the way school works on a daily basis. I am confident that the ethos and quality of teaching will be unaffected, allowing students to get the great education that Fitzharrys provides.

It will be exciting to have all our students back in school, and our staff are looking forward to welcoming them back in September. This week we say thank you and goodbye to a several members of staff, including Miss Cook, Mrs Harris and Mr Williams in Science, Mr Waddleton and Mr Peters in English, Miss Brazier Tope in Humanities, Mrs Brooks in the admin team, Mr Wilkinson in SEN and Mr Dennett. This week we will be giving the best send-off that we can to all of them and thanking them for the impact they have had on Fitzharrys' students. In particular, we will be thanking Mr Dennett who leaves after 9 years as Headteacher. We are grateful for everything he has done for our community in this time and wish him the very best for the future.

Last week we welcomed our new teachers to the school as they took part in an induction day. Ms Corley will be joining us as Deputy Head, while Miss Hartley will be our new head of English and communications, she will be joined in the faculty by Miss Sobol who will teach MFL. In Science we welcome Dr Ouvry, Miss Crawshaw, Mrs McSorley and Miss Leaman. While Humanities will have Mrs Foston and Miss Bonham joining their team, Miss Lopez will be joining our SEN team, and Miss Pharoah will be our new head of Upper School. These are all great appointments and we look forward to welcoming them to their new roles in September.



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As a school we are preparing for the best possible start in the autumn and with some changes on the school site, including a refurbishment of the Science department and welcoming two sixth form tutor groups back on site as part of JMF6. We look forward to welcoming all our students back into school in September.

I will be in touch with more details toward the end of August, but in the meantime, I wish everyone the very best for a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Will Speke
Head of School



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