

July 2020

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

This is the fourth end of year newsletter I have written since taking over as Headteacher of Holly Lodge and what an unprecedented year it has been. I would like to start by thanking you for all of the work you have done to ensure that your daughter stays engaged with her learning during the school closure, which has been for much longer than any of us hoped or expected. Thank you as well for all your feedback during the lockdown which has been so invaluable in ensuring that we are able to continue to meet the needs of our community. It is clear that all parts of society will continue to feel the effects of the recent pandemic for quite some time and schools are no different. I will give you an overview of how we plan a full, safe return for all our students later in this letter.

Despite lockdown, we have had a number of successes this year including

-  **A successful OfSTED visit in November where we were rated as Good in all areas, recognising the improvements**

**in results, teaching and leadership that have taken place in school since 2016**

-  **Reaching 8th out of 31 secondary schools in the Liverpool performance tables**

- **Excellent responses in student, staff and parental surveys**

-  **Our largest Year 7 cohort since 2008 and our largest Year 12 cohort since 2013**

-  **6 successful applications for public school bursaries by Year 11 students**

**Staffing Changes**

We say goodbye to Miss Hember this year and thank her all for her hard work and dedication to our students during her time with us. We are delighted to welcome the following new staff to Holly Lodge from September;

Miss V Plitchta - Teacher of English

Miss J Langley - Teacher of English

Miss E Morgan - Teacher of PE

Miss D Brigida – Teaching Assistant

We are also delighted that Mrs Landy is returning to teach Maths.

**Free School Meals**If you believe you may be entitled to Free School Meals, **we would urge you to make a claim and use your entitlement even if you daughter does not want to take advantage of the free meal, as her registration means that we can access additional funding for school and support your daughter’s learning.** You can find details of eligibility and how to claim at https://liverpool.gov.uk/contact-us/contact-a-service/benefits/free-school-meals.

**Uniform**

Government guidance states that students should return in their full uniform in September so please ensure that you follow the uniform guidance on our website and below.

Please note that earrings (even studs) are not a part of our school uniform. If you plan to get your daughter’s ears pierced over the summer please do so at the start of the holiday so that they have time to heal before she returns to school without any studs in. Please also note that girls will require a **plain black** weatherproof outdoor coat for the winter months. It also part of our uniform that all shoulder length or long hair should be tied back – this is especially important during the pandemic for reasons of hygiene. Also, all hair should be of natural colour.

**Mobile Devices**

A reminder that mobile devices are only allowed to be used by students during the first 20 minutes of break and the first 40 minutes of lunch. Any mobile phones seen outside these times or in a learning building at any time will be confiscated by staff and parents will be required to come and collect them.

**Medication**

If your daughter will require medication in school, please contact her year leader to make the required arrangements.

**Results Days**

**Sixth Form Results** Day is **Thursday 13th of August**. Due to the pandemic we have to follow guidance on results day so we will be in touch with arrangements at the start of August because they will be very different from normal.

**GCSE Results** Dayis **Thursday 20th of August**. Due to the pandemic we have to follow guidance on results day so we will be in touch with arrangements at the start of August because they will be very different from normal. Year 10 GCSE Statistics results will be posted home on Thursday 20th August.

**Parent Mail**

All students pay for their lunches through our Parent Mail software. Up until now, students have been able to top up their accounts using cash in school. This will not be possible in September due to the issues around cash and Covid 19, so all parents must top up online. This is very simple to set up – please follow the instructions at <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/payments/dinner-money/> or see the attached poster for information.

We would strongly recommend that you download the FREE  Parentmail App if you haven’t already , please see the benefits of using this  via this link; https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/parentmail-app/benefits-of-the-app/

**A Safe Return to School**

All schools will have to adjust to life in an ongoing pandemic in September and Holly Lodge is no different in that we will have to follow the guidelines laid down by the government. A summary of these guidelines can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years- providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to- know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term

In order to keep students and staff safe but still maintain our usual teaching and curriculum standards, we will be significantly changing the way school will run. I will write during the holidays with full details of arrangements for each year group, after the government has reviewed the guidelines for schools on August 11th, but the main points you need to know now are;

* Attendance at school is compulsory for all students other than those who are shielding or isolating.
* Any students displaying Covid symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately.
* Start and finish times of the day will not change (except Years 8 and 9 who will leave 10 minutes early each day).
* School will be closed to students until 8am each day.
* Students will need to wear full school uniform. As per the guidance they should wear masks on public transport but they will not wear them in school. We will give a full update on this in the August letters.
* Students will be in whole year ‘bubbles’ and will not have contact with other years during the school day.
* Students will have to use certain entrances - Years 7 and 8 will use Queens Drive whilst Years 9 to 11 will use Mill Lane. 6th Form students can use either entrance but must do so in a socially distanced manner.
* Meetings with parents will take place as much as possible via telephone or zoom and must be by appointment only. Regretfully, we will be unable to see parents who arrive without an appointment as we have done in the past.

These measures are very complicated and different for staff and students. So that we are able to operate in a safe way, the start of the year will be more staggered than usual. This is to allow for a smooth transition for Year 7 (who have not yet had the opportunity to visit us) and for us to explain fully to the students how things will work. I have attached a table to this letter to show how the first week back will operate. Work will be set on Show My Homework by 9am on Wednesday 2nd of September for those days when students will be working at home during the first week.

There will be lots of information and updates coming out during the summer, so please keep checking for emails and letters from school and visit our website regularly to keep yourselves up to date.

Yours sincerely,

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Mr A Keen

**Headteacher**



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