



ABBEY PARK SCHOOL

16th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this end of term newsletter finds you well. As the academic year draws to a close I have been reflecting on what has been achieved throughout the disruption caused by the pandemic. Despite the interruptions experienced, pupils have risen to the challenge to engage in home learning, remain in bubbles and remain focused on their learning and progress. As Principal I commend our pupils for their resilience, determination and adaptability in overcoming the many challenges they have faced. I also take this opportunity to thank the staff of the school as they have displayed similar qualities. Whether it be overseeing a testing bay or teaching remotely, everyone has worked together to ensure the smooth running of the school and to keep everyone safe. Your support as parents has been vital and staff have been grateful for your kind words of thanks and encouragement throughout this challenging time.

We have finished the year with a different look sports day, with 4 different afternoons for each year group. Again, our pupils have adapted well, covering events for absent peers. Since our return in March, we have managed to run some events such as the Year 9 visits to Jamie’s Farm, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expeditions and Year 10 ‘Bubble’ visits for college experiences. Unfortunately, we were unable to run our usual Year 6 into Year 7 transition days but we are running four days of Summer School in August for over 200 of our new pupils. It is always a pleasure to celebrate pupils’ achievements and although carried out remotely, our rewards assembly has acknowledged pupils hard work and commitment to their learning.

At this time of the academic year we usually experience some staff changes. As well as a small number of staff leaving, we do have a number on maternity leave. We have recruited well and ensured these posts are covered to ensure standards are maintained. We say goodbye to and wish the following staff well in new posts – Mr Bradley, Mr Davies, Miss Stallon and Mr Embling. We thank them for their work and commitment to the pupils at Abbey Park. The following staff we welcome to Abbey Park and look forward to working with them:

Teacher	Department
Miss Anthony	Maths
Miss Haestier	Maths
Miss Messenger	Design and Technology
Mr Spurr	Science
Miss Tondo	Modern Foreign Languages
Miss Bradford	English
Mr Hopwood	Humanities
Miss Fullerton	Music
Miss Taylor	Drama/English

The new school year September 2021

As the easing of lock down continues and case numbers rise we wait to see what it will entail for the system of controls in schools. We have consistently followed DFE guidance to ensure pupils and staff are as safe as possible and we will continue to adhere to guidance. The most recent guidance will enable the school to run as



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Vice Principal: Mrs L Hunter

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normal in September. There will be no ‘Year group bubbles’ so all pupils will be allowed to access specialist teaching rooms around the school. We will have in place an appropriate risk assessment and contingency plan to inform you of our processes should there be an outbreak of the virus.

C-19 Lateral flow testing for pupils

The DFE requires pupils to be tested twice within 3-5 days before their full return to school in September. Similar to our return in March, we intend to run a test centre in school from Friday 27th August. Implementing this process before the start of term will enable pupils to return as normal as the term begins. There will be a testing schedule sent out to inform you of when to send your child in for a test. After the first test they will return home and if negative on their second test will be able to return to school as normal.

The start of Term

Year 7 only on Friday 3rd September ready for an 8.45am start.
All pupils return on Monday 6th September ready for an 8.45am start.

Arrival to and from school

Pupils will arrive to school by 8.40am ready for a prompt 8.45 start in registration with their tutor. School will end at 3.10pm for all pupils unless they attend Session 6 or detention.

Years 7, 8 and 9 will arrive through the pupil gate which will open at 8.15am. They will also leave school through the pupil gate.

Years 10 and 11 will arrive through the front entrance of the school which will open at 8.15am. They will also leave through the front entrance.

Uniform

Pupils will be required to be in **full, correct uniform** of Blazers, ties, formal black school shoes and will resume bringing PE kit to school to change into. An Abbey Park jumper is not a substitute for a blazer.

Equipment

Tutors will carry out equipment checks so it is important that your child arrives in September with full equipment which is listed below. We will provide pupils with an APS Pupil Planner which they need to bring to school every day.

Pen Black or Blue x 2	Coloured pencils	Pair of compasses
Pencil x 2 Pencil Sharpener	Green pen (for noting feedback)	Protractor
Ruler	Highlighter pens	Dictionary
Rubber	Glue stick	Pair of headphones
Pair of safety scissors	Calculator	Reading book (from home)



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Behaviour for learning and detentions

As always there will be high expectations of behaviour for learning. After school detention will return to an hour long, finishing at 4.10pm. Late detentions will run to 5.00pm.

Lateral Flow Testing

As per the latest DFE guidance the school will no longer track and trace from 19th July; from this date this will be carried out by NHS track and trace. If your child has a positive test result on Monday 19th or Tuesday 20th July, please notify the absence line as you would for any absence. Pupils are not required to use lateral flow tests during the Summer holiday.

Thank you again for your support of the school throughout the year. I hope you are able to enjoy the Summer and wish all our pupils a safe time away from school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Young
Principal
Abbey Park School



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