

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear families,

**RE: Important information regarding upcoming changes at school and COVID 19 update**

Firstly, can I offer a big welcome to all of our new year 7 students and families. It is great to see so many of them enjoying this new challenge and getting involved in school life.

This letter outlines key changes and developments within the school as a result of the ever changing educational world we currently live in as a result of the pandemic. Schools are having to become much more flexible in their approach, and be expected to make changes at very short notice. I would therefore urge you to continue to read these letters and keep abreast of communication sent out via our normal channels, Twitter and Instagram.

**Lateral Flow Tests**

Within school these have now all been completed. A big thank you has to go out to our canteen and examination staff who put themselves forward and did a fantastic job, and also our students who conducted themselves impeccably throughout the process. The next stage of this process is to ensure all families have their supplies of home-based lateral flow tests. School will distribute these to those who we have consent for, early next week. Please can I urge families to continue to take these tests.

**COVID 19 Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds**

Once we have a clear picture of how this will operate I will write a separate letter containing all of the information you will need. What we do know is that these will be administered in schools by external health professionals in a very similar way in which we currently run our HPV vaccinations. I am sure many of you will have questions about this process but can I urge you to please wait until we have the information ourselves and I can then answer a lot of the questions you may have.

**Reverting back to normal school day timings**

Last year we took the decision to shorten our lunch break temporarily due to a lack of facilities because of restrictions placed on us by the pandemic protocols. We are delighted to say that from **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** our canteen will re-open and we can again serve hot food within school. Our canteen is incredibly busy during social times so to ensure that our year 7 and year 8 students can get to grips with how it operates we will be allowing all year 7 and year 8 students to have their lunch early on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next week at **1.10pm**. Teaching staff will escort them down and supervise them.

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This also means that lunchtime will revert back to normal, and so period 6 will start at **2.15pm** and school will finish at **3.15pm**. We will however reserve the right to change back again should we need to, and we will be reviewing school day timings as we head further into this academic year.

### **Punctuality**

In assemblies at the start of this term we have discussed our high standards and how we want to see excellence in everything we do. Punctuality to school, and lessons is so important. Lost learning, both academically in the classroom, and socially from tutors, is a national concern. Students cannot afford to miss vital information or teaching because they are late. This year we have a new electronic sign in system in reception and students that are late will automatically have an after school detention on a Thursday night for the time they have missed. Failure to attend these detentions will result in an internal isolation in-line with our behaviour policy.

### **Appropriate conduct when traveling to and from school**

Year on year we are getting a larger number of students wanting to come to Burton Borough School and this means we have very high numbers of students arriving in a morning, and leaving our building at 3.15pm walking out into Newport. We have made it very clear to students that we expect student conduct to be excellent from the minute they leave their home to the minute they return and that our rules continue to apply during this period. The vast majority of our students really are a credit to our school and community in this regard, however, it is always good to remind students of what our expectancies are.

### **Return to extra-curricular activities**

It is really heart-warming to see the students able, to once again throw themselves into extra-curricular clubs and activities. We had a maths trip go out this week. We also have over 50 year 10 students on their first Duke of Edinburgh residential this weekend. As a school we were saddened throughout the lockdowns that such an important part of school life was missing and as a result we have grand ambitions for what we want to achieve with enrichment at Burton Borough School. Our very extensive enrichment programme will be on the website later today in the parent section. Students can chose activities from cryptography to classical reading, alongside the traditional sports and arts. Mrs Stephens will be writing to parents next week to explain this in more details.

Regards



Ben Morgan  
Acting Principal



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