

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As we welcome our year 10's into school for their final face to face teaching session, I find myself reflecting on the journey that all of our young people and their families have faced in recent months.

As the national crisis unfolded I wrote to our year 11 and 13 students around the way that as a school community, that focuses on holistic education through developing character and resilience, we would all need to use such traits to support each other as we faced the unknown future. I doubt that anyone in March truly anticipated what we would face together. May I formally thank you all for supporting your child/children and working in partnership with us as we carefully picked our way through uncharted waters. We have also learnt so much that will help in the way that we plan to re-open in the Autumn Term.

We must not allow this pandemic to steal away our young people's childhood, their dreams and aspirations. Their hopes will be central to the way we re-connect our community.

Please find below some important messages:

#### **School Calendar 2020 - 2021**

Following on from my previous letter, I am now able to confirm that the final 3 INSET days have been set as 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July meaning school will close for students on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021** for the summer break next academic year.

A list of year group specific key dates such as parent's evening and information evenings will be sent directly to parents of those year groups, however I am sure you can appreciate we will be reviewing how all events are run in light of current national situation. Please also be aware some flexibility may be required for May and June for potential date changes for the 2021 exam series.

#### **Autumn return plan**

Thank you very much for the feedback and questions from the plan for all students to return to school in September 2020. For clarity and reassurance please find below some answers to questions asked if you have had similar queries:

##### *Why are children and staff not wearing face masks in school?*

We have followed very carefully the government guidance for returning to school and currently masks are not mandatory in schools. Should any guidance be changed, including the wearing of masks, the plan will be updated and sent to parents throughout the summer

##### *What happens if my child is set in a differently for English/Humanities than Maths?*

Students in years 8 – 9 will be taught initially in their Maths/Science sets as this was the best option to support students, whilst still maintaining the need for suitable sized bubbles. However, we would like to reassure you that all teachers will know which sets students have come from for their subjects and will support students whatever their ability.

##### *Why is the lunch break later?*

The initial timetable for the first 3 weeks includes a 30-minute break mid-morning along with a 30-minute lunchtime break. The two 30-minute breaks have been built into the timetable to support

social distancing. This also gives students the opportunity to eat at either, or both, breaks. In addition to this a light breakfast will be able to be purchased in the school outdoor pods until 8.30am to give students the opportunity to eat breakfast when they arrive at school if they prefer. The rationale to delay the lunch timings and have the longer break mid-morning is to benefit the students, particularly in years 7 – 9 who will be required to spend their day in one classroom rather than being able to move around the school between lessons. We feel that this will mean they will have more chance to eat and/or have some fresh air which will give them focussed time in lessons.

As you are aware the plan will be reviewed after w/c 14<sup>th</sup> September and any changes will be communicated to parents. Please remember to check your emails and the website as the plan will be updated and reviewed if the local or national situation changes over the Summer break.

### **Transport**

A communication has been sent to parents relating to transport asking parents to confirm their child's mode of transport. The Department of Transport are currently reviewing school transport, including public bus service, and we will update parents as soon as we receive more information.

### **Uniform**

We have been in contact with all Neston High School uniform suppliers and they have advised that they are open and ready for uniform orders. Please remember it is full uniform when we return to school in September. Wirral F.U.S.S are a local charity who recycle nearly new school uniform, they can be contacted via <https://wirralfuss.co.uk/> if you require some support. Alternatively, you can support them by donating uniform that your child may have grown out of.

### **Summer Food Vouchers**

All families entitled to Free School Meals will receive a supermarket voucher during w/c 20.07.20.

### **Year 11 and Year 13 students**

A separate letter has been sent to all parents and carers of students in Year 11 and 13 about the results day arrangements. Please ensure students can access their Neston High School email accounts before results day.

We look forward to celebrating with our year 11 and 13 students their much-deserved success and remind them of words that I shared in the final assemblies. Whatever direction they choose, please reflect that over time *"Life is all about where you come from while you are still flying to your dreams"*. To those moving on, and to those that we will so warmly welcome back in September, may their roots be ever in Neston High School and may we forever be their wings to allow them to go Explore, Dream and Discover their futures.

### **Year 6 into 7**

Information regarding our Summer transition programme has been sent to our new families. We are looking forward to welcoming their families into our community in September.

On behalf of all my colleagues can I wish you a safe and relaxed Summer break.

Kind regards  
K Simpson  
Headteacher