



Westbourne Avenue
Walker
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 4ED

23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for the start of the new academic year, September 2021

The most recent guidance from the government indicates that there will be less infection control measures in place when we return to school in September. For example, we will no longer have to limit contact between staff and students and between different groups of students.

The reduction in infection control measures is great news and will allow us to increase the provision of some of the activities and learning experiences which have been limited over the past year. There is still a lot of detail to be provided by the government on what measures will be retained and new actions that schools will be required to take for the safety of staff and students.

As new information comes from government it may impact on and change the information I am providing to you in this letter.

The school will share information through the website, the parent's Facebook page and through the text messaging service.

The new school term begins for staff on Monday 6th of September. As usual the first 2 days are professional development days to allow staff to access essential training.

The first day for students will be Wednesday 8th September.

The government have directed all secondary schools to provide on-site asymptomatic testing to students on their arrival back to school after the summer. Students should be tested on their first day back to school. The government accepts that it is impossible to test all students in a secondary school on the one day and has suggested that schools may need to stagger the start of term for students to allow everyone to be tested.

Year 7 and 8 students will start term on Wednesday the 8th of September.

Students in years 9 and 10 will start term on Thursday the 9th of September.

The first day of term for students in year 11 and 6th form will be Friday the 10th of September.

I appreciate that this will cause difficulty for many families and apologise for the delayed start to the term.

Students will only access testing if we have consent from parents and if the student consents to be tested at the time of the test. Whether your child is taking part in testing or not, they will not be able to return to school any sooner than the rest of their year group.

SCP recovery curriculum

There has been much discussion in the media about the learning which students have lost during the past year due to disrupted learning. As with all other schools we are aware that the different way we have had to operate and deliver learning to students has had an impact. The most notable impact across the students at SCP has been the lack of access to specialist teachers and access to the different areas of the school.

Students have also lost confidence and independence skills, and have not had the opportunity to mix out with their own class or year group.

Change is difficult for all of us and particularly so for many of our students. We are taking a phased approach to our move back to 'normality' to allow our students to recover the confidence and skills they have lost over the past year and to support them to re-discover their relationships with non-pastoral staff and peers they may not have been able to socialise or work with this last year.

When students return to school they will continue to be based in their pastoral classroom. We will continue to have movement between class bases within a year group. From Week 2 of the autumn term, subject teachers will move around the school, delivering subject based lessons. Students will have the security of remaining in their own class or year group space but will have the chance to develop relationships with a wider group of staff and to have learning delivered by subject specialists.

As the term progresses and students gain confidence, they will begin to move around the school to access learning in subject specialist areas.

This will build throughout the year with our aim being to have all students moving around the school to access subject learning in specialist classrooms in the summer term.

Students will always begin and end the day in their own pastoral room and will continue to be supported by known staff during the school day.

Students in years 7 and 8 will be based within their pastoral classroom with their pastoral staff every afternoon.

If you have any questions about any of the information provided in this letter, please contact school. The admin e-mail is monitored throughout the holiday and any queries or questions will be answered by one of the senior staff, though there may be a delay of a few days.

Thank you for your support over the past year.



Karen Hamilton