



SJB/JRu

4 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

After a very surreal time since March, I would like to extend a massive welcome to all our students who have returned to Dene Magna, not only from the summer break, which I hope was restful for you all, but from lockdown back in March. It has been a real joy to see our community back together and flourishing once again.

It really is delightful to see not only our new Year 7 students, but every year group finding their feet once again; meeting up with their friends in their zones, chatting to their teachers and readily getting down to work in their lessons. Our new senior students will soon be taking to their roles and it will be so good to see them making progress in getting their voices heard within our community. We are also elated to see the Sixth Form open again for learning for our new Year 12s and we welcome Year 13 back for their final year with us. They are all raring to get on and do well in their A-level courses.

This is also the first year of becoming a Trust and it was wonderful to see the children at Drybrook Primary take their seats under the new banner of The Forest of Dean Trust.

We would like to wish all our students success in their hard work as the year begins. This is a vital year for all students with our Year 7s settling in, Year 8 students laying the foundations for their GCSE studies, Year 9 students who will be choosing their KS4 options and Year 10 students who begin those options and head towards their exams. Our Year 11 students who are only 9 months away from sitting their GCSE exams have been given an extended day to ensure they have not been disadvantaged by lockdown and to make sure they get back on track with their studies. The timetable for this can be found on our website.

Talking of exams I would like to take a minute to mention our Year 11 students who left us back in March, not being able to sit their written exams, but through our rigorous teacher assessments they did incredibly well in their GCSE outcomes and now go on to start their next journey. We are so proud about the time, accuracy and dedication that was taken by all of our teaching staff to enable us to accurately track student progress throughout their time with us and to use this so precisely to enter their marks which then went off to the exam boards. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the students who left us this year, they tried so hard and did so well. One thing this pandemic has taught us is that you must not waste a minute as you just don't know what's around the corner. Those who tried hard did well and as the saying goes "the more you practice, the better you get".

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Open Day/Evening and Parent/Carer Evenings

Our Open Day and Evening for the intake for 2021-22 will be very different this year. We will be taking bookings throughout September and October so that prospective students, along with their parents/carers, can come along to have a safe tour and to see us in action. More information about this will be coming out soon.

Parent/Carer Evenings

Currently, we are unable to hold traditional parent/carers evenings, therefore, the scheduled subject evening for Year 11 and the Tutor evening for Year 7 will not take place. We have a plan and will be in touch to let you know how we will replace this. In the meantime, should there be any concerns over the progress of any student their Head of House will be in touch to let you know and, of course, you can always call us.

Policies

Whilst writing, can we draw your attention to our policies, in particular our Attendance and Behaviour Policies, which I recommend you read through. All our policies are available to read and/or download from our website.

Email correspondence

We are using email a lot more to send out correspondence to parents/carers. It is not only much quicker to send letters out this way, but also much safer while Coronavirus is still around. If you have changed your email address lately (or your contact number) please let reception know so that we can keep our database up-to-date and keep you informed of our latest news. Of course, the irony of sending this letter out by email, if your email address is incorrect, is not lost on me! So please share this message with anyone you think may have changed their contact information recently.

Website

Please keep an eye on our website and follow our Facebook and Twitter pages, we use these channels a lot as a school to inform parents/carers of any news and announcements.

There is a great atmosphere around the school, we are absolutely loving having everyone back again and we are truly excited about the coming year. Students have been set the challenge "*not to waste one second and to be the best that they can be*" and we will be making every effort to ensure that they rise to this challenge!

Things will keep changing, so thank you in advance for sticking with us and thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Brady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Brady
Headteacher