



11 September 2020

Dear parents/carers

A huge thank you!

Thank you for your fantastic support of our school in helping us to make the start of term so successful. We are immensely proud of how students have returned to school and their learning. They have been quite simply excellent in their attitude and responding to all the changes we have had to make in school. Attendance has also been excellent. Students have been quick to adapt to new timings and timetables, are focussed in lessons and enjoying learning in class with their teachers and peers.

Without our students and staff there is no school, it is merely a building. It has been a privilege to witness our school come alive again this week as all our students and staff returned, filling the classrooms and corridors with enthusiasm and smiles as they see their friends and staff again. Teachers have been delighted to be reunited with their students and to be able to engage face to face again. Something we have all missed greatly.

It has been wonderful to meet our new year 7 students who have astounded us with how quickly they have found their place (and their way around!). It has been lovely to hear their comments, such as 'I was so nervous on Monday but it's been so exciting and I'm really happy.' We can't wait to see the amazing contribution they will make to Team Durrington over the next 5 years.

Our brand new sports hall and courts are looking super. We hope to be using them by the end of term and will share an update soon.

See below for a few key points we have been asked about:

Water refill provision

We have adapted a number of the existing water dispensers and so these are available for students to refill bottles in the canteen (years 9-11 at break or lunch), pavilion (years 7 and 8 at break and lunch) and in PE (for all students that have a PE lesson).

Hand washing /sanitising

Please do continue to provide your son/daughter with a small, personal bottle of sanitiser and tissues. This makes a huge difference to the safe and smooth transitions of students into school and during lessons. We thank students for sticking to the guidance and following the multitude of instruction signs.

Student behaviour

We are very proud that nearly all students have behaved impeccably since the return to school. For those who do not meet basic expectations (or choose to put others at increased risk by ignoring the safety processes /new systems in school) there have been and will continue to be clear sanctions. We cannot and will not allow the negative behaviour of a few disrupt the learning and enjoyment of school for the majority.



Contacting the school

To minimise risk, we will continue our arrangements of parents/carers not coming onto the site (unless given express permission by staff to do so). Should you have a worry or concern, no matter how small this may seem, please do email or phone the school. Either contact a member of your company team directly or email admin@durring.com It is much easier to solve any issues if you let us know about them quickly. Please pick up the phone or send an email so we can help.

Where a student wishes to contact their pastoral support (company team) we request they send an email initially, out of lesson time, or they can speak to their company tutor during period 1. All staff email addresses are on the school website and all students have their own school email account to use which can be accessed on mobiles, desktops and tablets via the school website.

Year 7 canteen provision /length of queues

We continue to work to speed this up. Year 7 are 'learning the ropes' and we have already seen reduced queuing times at breaks and lunches. If there are any remaining concerns or issues please do let your company team know directly and we will seek to resolve them ASAP.

Calendared evening events /events on site /clubs /routines

We continue to review what will/ will not be possible. As we move forward throughout the term we will need to further adapt and amend our processes and by continuing to work together we will ensure any changes are successfully implemented. More information will follow (as soon as we have it) about how we plan to run events due to take place on site this term. Please be patient, as the guidance continues to change and we are also adapting to using a virtual approach so things can take a while to put in place.

Face coverings

Just a brief update that students, should they wish, are able to wear face coverings when in school (both moving around communal areas and within lessons). The 'wearing protocols' should be observed, e.g. they shouldn't be taken on/off regularly and social distancing /hand washing expectations still apply.

We are looking forward to a really successful year, happy to be back together.

Kind regards

Sue Marooney

Executive Headteacher /CEO DMAT

Chris Woodcock

Head of School