



1 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your families are all well and that you have managed to make the most of the summer break.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back to our schools this week and a special welcome goes to all our new families. We know that starting a new school or joining the sixth form can cause a few nerves. Please rest assured that our staff are ready to welcome your children and help them settle in – we are excited to meet them. If this new start is a first time for you as a parent, please try not to worry. I always find it astonishing how well the pupils and students adapt and, of course, they are all in the same boat.

Another special welcome goes to our new families from Cranbury College – we are delighted to be working with your children and helping them fulfil their potential. We also welcome Mandy Wilton and her excellent team into our community.

As you are aware, the expectation is that all pupils and students attend school from September. Over the summer, there has been a tremendous amount of work done to plan for the start of the new year, particularly in respect of COVID-19. All of our risk assessments have been reviewed and sites prepared to welcome everyone back. We will work with your children to show them the routines and expectations so that they feel reassured and can get back to learning with their friends. I am sure that things will evolve over the next few months and we will keep you informed of any changes.

In the meantime, I am asking for your support to help get our children and young people back to some semblance of normality. Please can you talk to them about how they can help keep themselves and others safe and why it is important to respect these new rules. If you are sending your child to school with a face covering, please talk to them about how to wear and dispose/store it correctly.

The DfE has produced a “what parents and carers need to know” document about returning to school which can be found [here](#). They have also produced some guidance on how to support children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing which can be found [here](#).

If you have specific individual concerns, please contact your child’s school. The sooner we know about an issue, the easier it is to deal with it. There is also a great deal of information on your child’s school website and I would urge you to have a good look at what is online.

I am always humbled by the support of our parent bodies. Many of you are involved in the various parent associations and focus groups, many support events and charity fund-raising. What counts perhaps the most, is the “small acts of daily support” outside school: reading with them, talking about their learning and facilitating their home learning, encouraging them to get involved in school life, ensuring they attend regularly and are active members of our

communities and helping them use positive strategies if something is not going quite as well. That is so very helpful and I know that school colleagues are very grateful for what you do.

A very, very warm welcome back to you all – this year will be different, but I am confident the character, creativity and humanity of our children and young people will shine through.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miss M Davies'.

Miss M Davies
Chief Executive Officer