

15 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you

I write to you as we approach the end of the academic year with thanks for your ongoing support, and with news about the start of the new year on 6 September 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the many and varied achievements of our students this year. Through each of the three terms, when they have continued to adapt to change and thrive despite the uncertainties they faced, our students, your children, have continued to make us proud.

Our youngest students in year 7 have embraced secondary school life with enthusiasm, making friends and learning in a new environment. Students throughout the school have shown commitment to learning in all lessons across our broad curriculum, taking on challenges in familiar subjects and those that are new to them. Our year 11 students, the class of 2021, have shown such focus as they worked towards the completion of their GCSE courses; my colleagues and I have been humbled by their good humour and resilience. We look forward to welcoming them into school as they receive their results on Thursday 12. I hope you have been able to share in some of these successes with your children if they have received praise postcards or awards, or perhaps when featured in our Facebook and Twitter pages.

The opportunities available to our students are due to the hard work and dedication of our highly skilled and experienced staff team. I extend my thanks to each of my colleagues for their relentless focus on high standards, so ensuring that our students are able to learn and thrive.

The new school year

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school after the summer break on Monday 6 September. Students will be greeted at the bottom gate by our staff before 8.20am each day to allow for a prompt start in tutor rooms at 8.25am. For those who would like to arrive earlier, and enjoy a nutritious breakfast, we welcome students into our breakfast club from 7.50am. Our breakfast club is free of charge and runs each school day; students wishing to use this facility should arrive via the bottom gate and will be directed to the dining hall by staff. If you are transporting your child to school, please could I ask that you use the parking facilities at the front of the school.

Uniform and equipment

Please could I ask for your continued support in maintaining our high standards by ensuring that your child is in full uniform every day. Details of how to purchase additional uniform items are available on our website. Shirts, PE socks and PE shorts can be bought anywhere, as long as they match our uniform expectations. All shoes must be plain, black and polishable. We will ask that all piercings, false nails, false eyelashes and excessive makeup is removed. Any summer piercings or nails should be timed so they are removable by the start of term. We ask that students have a sensible bag, such as a rucksack, to carry equipment to and from school and this should include a pencil case containing pens, pencils and a ruler.

Covid testing

Students in secondary schools, including those moving from primary school into year 7, are to be offered two lateral flow device covid tests before their return in September. I will be writing to all parents with details, including how you can give consent, in a separate letter.

Saying farewell

The end of the academic year each summer is an opportunity to recognise the huge contribution made by members of our staff team who are moving on to the next stage of their careers. Thank you and best wishes to Mrs Aslam, Mrs Carroll, Mrs Child, Mrs Day and Miss Jameson.

A special thank you to Mrs Tyerman, our inspirational Head of Maths, who is retiring after a long period of service to the Bishopsgarth community. We wish her well in her future adventures, which we hope will include visiting us from time to time. Thank you, Mrs Tyerman.

Thank you again for your support and commitment to the Bishopsgarth community. I wish you and your family a safe and restful summer and I look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday 6 September.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Robinson

Head of School