

17 July 2020

Dear Parents

Year 8 End of year update from Mrs Taggart

As the school year draws to a close, this will be my final communication for Year 8. It has indeed, been a very difficult few months and I think if anyone had told us that this would be happening last September we would have been hugely sceptical and very dismissive. Times have changed for all of us and so I want to think about that in terms of my final assembly (which is now available in the Year 8 work from home folder) and also tell you about the changes that will be needed to keep your children safe in September, when they return to school.

From September until Christmas all students at HB will be registered in Year groups. This is to ensure that the social bubbles are self-contained. The new Year 9s will all register in Warsaw – the Science block. In effect their new tutor for this time will be the Year group tutor and all communication will be via them for initial concerns that you might have. The Year group tutors and rooming is as follows:

9 Athens – 9AWYB. Mrs Wybraniec (Tuesday to Friday) and Mrs McArthur (Monday) in **Lab 5** sarah.wybraniec@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk or meryl.mcArthur@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

9 Berlin – 9BMAC. Miss McNamara in **Lab 2** sam.mcnamara@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

9 Luxembourg – 9LHAL. Mrs Hallett in **Lab 3** yin.hallett@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

9 Moscow – 9MCHA. Mrs Chalke in **Lab 4** samantha.chalke@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

9 Prague – 9PGIB. Mrs Gibbs in **Lab 8** clare.gibbs@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

9 Rome – 9RBRO. Mr Brown in **Lab 6** ben.brown@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

9 Warsaw – 9WBUR. Mrs Burbidge in **Lab 7** lindy.burbidge@staff.beaufort.hants.sch.uk

On the first day of school for Year 9 – **Tuesday 8th September** ALL students will arrive at school and need to go straight to Warsaw block following the school one way system. Tutors will spend time going through all of the new changes and the usual start of year information such as issuing timetables and planners etc. They will also make sure that students have all

the information that they need about the new routines. I know social times at break and lunch time will be a concern so I will update you on that now.

There will be **no food available before school or at break time**. Students will need to bring food for this time. Break time can be spent on the upper part of the field or in the Concert Hall if it is wet. All Year 9s will have their tutor time from 11.45am – 12.15pm; they will then have their lunchtime from 12.15pm – 12.45pm. Year 9 will be able to purchase food from The Bistro and The Tardis. This is the large blue box outside of Warsaw. The social areas will also be the same as at break- the upper field or the Concert Hall. This will be every day from September until Christmas.

One of the other concerns we have is around equipment and the fact that we as teachers are not going to be able to loan equipment out very easily. Equally students are not going to be able to 'borrow' pens or pencils etc. With this in mind, please can you ensure that your child has the basic equipment they will need. Typically this goes really well for the first few weeks and then it 'gets lost' or 'runs out'. I would be really grateful if you can check that they always have a pen and a pencil on a Monday morning. The following is the basic equipment that each student needs. We can't share glue sticks so that is a new addition. Scissors are not on this list and **SHOULD NOT** be brought into school.

Equipment list: In a pencil case

Black writing pens

Green pen

Pencils

Pencil sharpener

Coloured pencils (a small pack)

Rubber

Ruler

Protractor

Glue stick

Highlighter

Calculator

Reading Book – this is required for English lessons and Year 9 should always have one in their bag

I am sure that you will have lots of questions, some of which I will be able to answer but many I probably won't be able to. This is a 'new normal' that none of us have any experience in. Miss Hearle and the SLT have worked tirelessly to try and anticipate every eventuality but in a dynamic environment with over a 1000 young people there will be things that crop up. Please be assured that we will deal with things efficiently but ever mindful of the welfare of your child and the other students in the school.

My assembly was going to be a Celebration Assembly and I would like to say a big thank you for the contributions that I have had from both parents and students. I have used some but plan to have an assembly in September to celebrate our return to school; I will use the majority of these then. The theme of my assembly is 'Hope'. It is not an all singing, all

dancing Take That fest but more a reflection on what we have experienced in the last months and what we might hope for in the coming months.

I hope that you have a safe summer. I hope that you enjoy time with your families. I hope that life can return to some sort of normal and I hope that Year 9 are fully prepared for me when they return!!!!

As always, thank you for your kind words and your support over the last 4 months. This has made what has been a difficult time much more manageable.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs Taggart
Head of Year 8 & Humanities Teacher