



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you and your families were able to have some rest and relaxation over the summer period.

You may have seen the press releases about the qualification outcomes from Highdown. We are extremely proud of years 11 and 13. They worked hard through the year to prepare for examinations and faced the usual examination year pressures in the face of a global pandemic. Throughout they worked well with their teachers and supported each other as Highdowners always do. Highdown staff worked extremely hard to determine the Centre Assessed Grades and submit them after thorough moderation and checking.

The teaching staff worked with our data and exams team to ensure our submission was rigorous and ethical. I am delighted that the students are credited with these grades, they represent extremely high achievement from their starting points due to great teaching and super hard work! Our students have now progressed into our Sixth Form or onto college and our year 13s have accepted places at universities, apprenticeships and into employment.

We welcome our new year 7 and 12 to Highdown earlier than other students and they have their own arrangements for the first week of term. (Documents can be found on our website: [Letters Home](#)).

Arrangements for other years were circulated at the end of term (again documents can be found on our website: [Letters Home](#)). For ease of reference, I will summarise here. Years 8-11 and 13 start on Monday 7th September at 8.40am. We have not staggered the starting time for the day as students usually arrive in a staggered manner. However, they do group together on arrival into the school. Students should go to their outside field space, if they arrive before the start of the day and access to their mentor rooms is not available. Schools are tasked with reminding students and families that they should walk or cycle to school wherever possible and if public transport is the only available option, face coverings should be worn.

With recent changes in protocols widely discussed in the media, Highdown has adopted an approach to face coverings in line with many other schools. This being that face coverings will be used in corridors or communal spaces, other than classrooms. Those who have medical reasons for not covering their faces, will of course not be expected to.

With any use of face coverings, whether voluntary or mandatory, is important that students understand that:



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- It is vital that that face coverings are worn correctly and that guidance is followed including [how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings](#), to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission.
- Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Students will need to provide their own plastic bags.
- Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.
- The expectation is that students will wear a face mask, as opposed to bandanas, scarves or other more extensive face coverings, unless there is a valid reason for doing so.
- Our expectations of behaviour with regard to the use of face coverings will be shared with students at the start of term.

We are certain that the majority of students will now have their own face coverings

Students must bring their own equipment to school as there will be no loaning of pens etc. Details of the required equipment are to be found on the school website here: [Uniform, Kit & Equipment](#) Guidance currently states that there is no requirement for face coverings to be worn in lessons. However, if a student or member of staff does feel more comfortable wearing more often that is acceptable.

Students will receive their timetables, map of the one way system, details of different times of the day (to allow for staggering of breaks) and access to the Gallery Café by the end of the week. We will take a sensible approach to reminding each other to be mindful of new systems and process in line with our value of respect for each other within our community.

For the first two weeks we will have a staggered dismissal. This will be reviewed after two weeks and we hope that we can revert to all students being dismissed at 3.05pm.

For weeks one and two the following times will apply for dismissal:

Year 7 - 2.35pm

Year 8 - 2.45pm

Year 9 - 2.55pm

Years 10 and 11 - 3.05pm

6th Form 3.05pm

We, of course, hope that all are fit and well. Please do not send your son or daughter to school if they are showing symptoms of Covid19 (a new, dry cough, high fever, lack of sense of smell or taste). Any symptomatic student will be isolated and a parent will be asked to collect immediately and remain isolated until a negative test result is received or recovery and subsequent negative test result.

We look forward to welcoming all students back.

Yours sincerely



Ms R E Cave
Headteacher