



2 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the new term and welcome to our new Year 7 families. This letter is simply a brief reminder of a few basics before we open to students on Wednesday and Thursday. We previously sent key reminders in the Head of Year letters which are available on the website ([Parents/Letters & Information](#)) so please check there or the Parent Handbook ([Parent Helpbook 2024-25](#)) for any questions.

STARTING ARRANGEMENTS

Year 7s first day is Wednesday starting at 8.33am. They should enter via the Student Entrance where they will be met by staff and student leaders who will direct them. Year 13 also start on Wednesday and should report to the LRC.

Year 8-12 have their first day on Thursday, they should arrive at the normal time and proceed to their tutor room at the start of the school day. If they are unsure where that is, posters will be up around school as a reminder.

RECEPTION

As is immediately apparent to anyone arriving on site, our Reception area is undergoing a significant rebuild and refurbishment. This work over the summer break has experienced delays due to suppliers and so it may be a week or two until it is ready. Our Reception team are therefore having to relocate to the lobby area of Welfare. Please be patient and empathetic as they try to meet the needs of visitors and callers in a significantly reduced environment.

BUSES

We expect all buses to be running as normal from Wednesday morning. Students are advised to arrive 5 minutes earlier than the timetable to ensure they do not miss their bus. Students are reminded that they represent the College while travelling on the bus, and must therefore behave well in line with College expectations, not leaving litter and being courteous to others.

Students (if they are eligible) should carry their bus pass with them for all journeys. Eligibility can be found [here](#) as well as route and bus stop information [here](#). If for any reason students entitled to free travel have not yet received their pass in the post, they will not be prevented from getting the bus but parents should contact [ESCC Transport and Admission](#) to chase up the pass. All information about bus routes and numbers can be found in the [Parent Handbook](#).



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LUNCHES

For existing students parents can top up cashless catering via Arbor, please ensure your child has sufficient for the first day or week.

For Year 7, whilst those who collected iPads will have had their thumb print taken and signed up for cashless catering, our systems will need a day to sync. The advice remains to bring either a packed lunch or money to purchase a meal. Those eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a lunch.

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Uniform is an important representation of equity for students. We work hard to keep costs down and consistency maintained so that all students are able to experience that element of school equally. Please check [end of year letters](#) and the website for last minute reminders of the requirements if you are not sure.

If you have any concerns about items you may not have been able to equip your child with for the start of term, please contact the Pastoral Manager for the relevant year group.

Please also check the Basic Equipment list (page 14 of the [Parent Handbook](#)) and make sure students have what they need, or that we know if there is a barrier we can help with.

COMMUNICATION WITH COLLEGE

Later this week we will write to update parents to advice of slight changes regarding communication with the College and how we work most effectively together. There is no change to the channels for communication as signposted on our website with details of the right people to contact ([Who to Contact and How](#)).

As always do let us know as soon as possible if you have a concern about your child at the start of the new term.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher