



Great Marlow School

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Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

September 2020 Update

As I wrote in a communication last week, I am delighted that the latest guidance from the Government is that schools must prepare for a full return of all students in September. In fact, the Department for Education has made it clear that attendance will be mandatory.

The autumn term officially starts on Thursday 3rd September. Below, are the dates of the staggered start we are implementing this year. We have decided to welcome the new Year 7 students into school a day early because they missed their induction in July.

Arrangements for Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 4th September 2020

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|--|--|-----------------------|
| Weds 2 nd September | Year 7 only in school (Induction Morning) | 8.35am-12.00pm |
| Thurs 3 rd September | Years 7, 8, 9 and Year 12 | 8.35am-15.00pm |
| Fri 4 th September | Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and Year 12 | 8.35am-15.00pm |
| Monday 7th September | All Year Groups (including Year 13) | 8.35am-15.00pm |

All students are expected to wear full school uniform; also, all students are expected to have the specified PE kit for all PE lessons, once they have received their timetables.

The leadership team, governors and staff, as in previous years, will be in school for much of the two week period that hosts the A-level and GCSE results days: on Thursday 13th August and Thursday 20th August, respectively. Staff will be on hand to help students make decisions about the best way forward, based on the results they receive on those days.

Moreover, this two week period will allow the key stakeholders in school to carry out due diligence based on the latest Government guidance. The past few months have taught the Leadership Team and Governors that guidance from the Government changes regularly, and time is required to digest it, especially as it has to be reviewed in accordance with the specific context of our school and community. At this moment, nobody really knows what the virus situation will be in the middle of August. Therefore, I know you will understand my reason for refraining from publishing specific details until later in the summer. It is my belief that rather than communicating possible scenarios that may result in speculation, anxiety or confusion, it is better to communicate a well-timed plan that takes account of the latest guidance and our specific context.

I intend to communicate any new specific arrangements on or before Friday 21st August, in good time for the start of the new academic year.

Finally, I wish all members of the Great Marlow School community a restful, enjoyable and safe summer holiday.

Best wishes

Kevin Ford
Headteacher