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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your children have had a great summer. We have been celebrating students' successes in their GCSEs, A levels and Diplomas with record numbers of top grades and we're delighted with the strong recruitment into our Sixth Form. We are now getting ready for the term ahead. I would like to extend a warm welcome to new parents of students in Year 7 and Year 12; I am looking forward to meeting you in person.

Here are some reminders of the arrangements for the start of term:

Monday 5 September: Staff Training Day; School CLOSED to students.

Tuesday 6 September: 8.45am - 1.15pm. Year 7 Induction Day.
All new Year 7 students should attend. Students leave after lunch at 1.15pm

Wednesday 7 September: 8.45am - 1.15pm. Induction Day One
First day back for Year 8-11. All students return for their first induction day. Students leave after lunch at 1.15pm.

Thursday 8 September: 8.45am - 2.25pm. Induction Day Two
All students in all years are involved, Years 7-11 leave after Period 4 at 2.25pm and Years 12 & 13 leave at 12.25pm.

Friday 9 September: 8.45am - 3.25pm Full Day. The first full day. We will follow the Friday Week B timetable.

Monday 12 September: Full Week A timetable begins.

Other information and reminders:

Student Entrance

This term we will be locking the Student Entrance gate between 9.05 am and 3.15pm every day for additional site security. Students or visitors arriving to school after 9.05am will need to use the Main Reception on Highbury Grove.

School Equipment and Uniform

Please make sure your child is fully kitted out for the start of term with full school uniform and a well-stocked pencil case including spare pens, pencils and a ruler. We will be making sure students have all the basic equipment every day. If you have any urgent problems please contact us but please note we will be sending any students home if they arrive without the full uniform, including blazers and shoes, unless they accept the numerous spares that we have on offer at Student Reception.

Mobile Phones

Students are allowed to bring mobile phones to school so they can use them at the end of the day, outside the main building. They are only allowed to use them in class if teachers give express permission for phones to be used to support learning. Otherwise, we will be saying that no phones should be used anywhere on the school site. This is so that the school becomes a space free from all the pressure of continual online interaction and addictive gaming that young people are exposed to. Several parents have asked us to take this line and we are happy to support it. We will be following our normal confiscation procedures if students' phones are seen around school. Your cooperation and support will be much appreciated. Any urgent messages for your child can be relayed via the school office.

Homework

Homework plays an important role in every student's learning. From now on, all homework will be set via Google Classroom, replacing ShowMyHomework. Your child will receive lots of information during the induction week including their timetable, their Google Classroom logins and email address. We will be sending you all the relevant information in due course; parents will need to share the same password as students in order to see the homework they are being set. The system has lots of superb features that will help students to organise their work and to access support material.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries. We will recirculate the most up-to-date contact details for your child's year group early next week.

Regards

Tom Sherrington
Headteacher