

28 August 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians

RE Week Beginning 1 September

This is a long letter, for which I apologise. I would really appreciate the support of parents/guardians in reading the letter through with their daughter/son before the return to school next week.

I will send a separate letter to the parents/guardians of all our new year 8 students, explaining what will be happening on their first day, Friday 4 September.

Year 12 attend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as arranged. A copy of the schedule and the subjects to be studied each day can be found under the Calendar button on the Shimna website.

Students will attend for a full school day, and should bring a snack for break time, which they will spend in the classroom or, weather permitting, going straight outside for a breath of fresh air. All students should bring a packed lunch, and a packed lunch will be provided for those students entitled to a free school meal.

Excellent work has already been done in English, maths, science, languages and UBELT. The coming week will see students well started on all their other subjects. On Friday, year 12 students will work remotely from home.

Year 13 and intermediate students entering yr 14 attend Thursday only.

Thursday 3 September is induction day for yr 13 and intermediate students entering yr 14. **Your induction will end at 12 noon at which time you should make your own way home.** Check to be sure you can access your school email.

Year 14 will attend by appointment with Alicia.

This week you are working remotely on your A Level courses. You will also each have a careers session with Alicia who will contact you as to when you should attend. You should also keep an eye on the Shimna Careers Facebook page, as universities and colleges are organising virtual Open Days, which will be really helpful to you in planning your next career move.

Year 11 attend on Tuesday only.

On Tuesday, you will have your induction day with your form teachers. You will also meet some of your subject teachers, who will give you your work for the next three days of remote learning. You will receive your timetable, with the subjects you picked, and, in any case where there was a clash, one of your back-up choices.

Year 10 attend on Wednesday only

Your first day is on Wednesday, and you will spend your induction day with your form teacher. You will also meet some of your subject teachers, who will give you your work for the next two days of remote learning.

Year 9 will attend on Thursday only.

Your first day is on Thursday, and you will spend your induction day with your form teacher. You will also meet some of your subject teachers, who will give you your work for remote learning on Friday.

Essential Information for Week Beginning 1 September

- School buses will be running again. If you are travelling to school on a bus, please remember that you **MUST** wear a mask;
- If you are being delivered by car, please arrive at Donard Park and walk up through the back gate;
- Please enter the building either at the Sports Hall or the Canteen. There will be sanitisers at both these points and you must sanitise on the way in;
- **Year 12**, please go straight to your subject classroom, where you will spend the day;
- **Years 9, 10, 11 and 13**, please go straight to your form room on your induction day. There will be a notice in the Sports Hall and Canteen for you to check where to go;
- **Year 14 intermediate students**, please go straight to the study annex;
- Once you are inside, you will be on a one-way system. Please follow the yellow and black arrows at all times. We know this will take some getting used to!
- There will be sanitiser in your classroom, but please use soap and water if your classroom has a sink. It is more effective but you must do one or the other;
- Remember to have every piece of equipment for learning with you. None of us can share: pens; pencils; maths equipment; ruler; rubber; sharpener, colours etc;
- You may bring a schoolbag, and you must keep it with you at all times. We can't use the bag park;
- There will be no canteen service, so please bring break/lunch with you. A packed lunch will be provided if you are entitled to free school meals;
- Our water fountains can't be used, so remember to fill your water bottle at home;
- You will spend break time in the classroom or you can go straight outside using the one-way system, weather permitting;
- The toilets will be supervised during break and lunchtime in order to ensure social distancing, handwashing etc. and will be closed at other times;
- Please respect the fact that staff **MUST** distance themselves by 2 meters from each other and from students;
- There is a Perspex screen on each teacher's desk, and if you need to speak to the teacher, please sit on the chair provided and talk through the screen;
- All students and staff must wear a mask when they are moving about the school, and years 11-14 should also wear a mask in class;
- **It is most important that you do NOT come to school if you have symptoms of Covid-19. It is also essential that you do not come into school if you need to**

quarantine following return from abroad. Let Roberta know as soon as possible if that is the case;

- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms during the day, home will be contacted at once to collect you, and we have a room ready for you to wait in safely;
- Once the school day is over, it is essential that you make your way straight home. We know that the temptation is to stay and chat, but that can't happen. Get outside as soon as possible, and chat while walking and wearing your mask.

Some of us, students and staff, have had an interesting and restful time during lockdown, some have had very restricted contact with others due to their own vulnerability or that of a household member. Some have taken every safety precaution very seriously, and some may have taken time to recognise how careful we need to be. Medical conditions, our own and our family's, are confidential, and we cannot know exactly what concerns and fears each of us is living with. Please be absolutely respectful of the safety precautions, even if you do not feel particularly vulnerable yourself. The only practical way to look at safety precautions is to assume you carry the virus, and you will do everything to make sure you do not pass it on to others.

All the new arrangements are going to be very hard to get used to, and no doubt we will need to encourage each other. I trust you will understand that if you can't follow the safety arrangements and instructions, you will not be able to attend school.

Thank you very much for all your support. We will be delighted to see you all again.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Lambe
Principal