

16 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of our school year, we reflect on recent times and the impact on our lives. We have been through the return in September, another lockdown in the Spring, a return in March, GCSE grading via Teacher Assessed Grades, transition events and so much more! When we are living through these times, life can feel hectic, tiring and frustrating. Just in the last few weeks alone, we have welcomed our students back to their routines and friendships, we have worked hard to close their gaps in learning and prepare them for a wonderful fresh start in September and welcomed our new cohort of Year 6 children to our transition events for Year 7.

As we look to a new school year in September we have a clear focus, to continue to offer quality of education for all our students. We will be launching our focus on Reading across the school to ensure that our children can absolutely access their broad and exciting curriculum.

Of course, our standards also relate to attendance and punctuality and it is imperative that our students regain their routine. We will therefore resume our normal procedures for attendance from the first day back after the summer.

When students return to school on the 6th September (3rd September for new Year 7 students) our current risk assessment for Covid will be suspended in line with step four of the national roadmap. Therefore, on our return the following aspects of the risk assessment will be removed:

- No need for a staggered start and finish, all students will start lessons at 08:25 and finish at 14:30.
- No face coverings will be required at any time on the school site.
- No 'bubbles' of students will be required and therefore students can mix freely.
- No self-isolation will be required for contacts of cases as they will be advised to take a PCR test instead.

When we return in September, all students will be offered two lateral flow tests in school to help identify any asymptomatic cases and minimise transmission. These will be administered during the first week of the return. If you have given your consent for testing as a parent then you don't need to do this again. If you have not yet given your consent please contact [enquiries@city.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@city.outwood.com) to register your consent.

I think that we have learnt over the last couple of years that we can't guarantee many things at the moment. Instead we hope and plan for a simpler time ahead, when we can return to routine, stability and freedom. What I can guarantee though is that we will prioritise the care and education of our students and staff above all else.

Finally, as always, I take the opportunity to thank you. We thrive because we are supported by the most wonderful, caring and supportive community of parents and carers. It is so rewarding for our staff to have that recognised by the kind and thoughtful comments that you send to us so often.

It is now so important that our students and staff get some rest, that they enjoy a hopefully beautiful summer with family and friends and recharge their energies.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Downing  
Principal