

5 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

A New School Year Begins

It is with a real sense of excitement that we write this message to you at the start of the new school year. Your children arrived at school looking very smart in their uniforms and well prepared for the start of the new academic year. Thank you for your support in ensuring they have the correct uniform and equipment they need so that we can get off to a really good start.

We are delighted to report that students have met their new tutors and subject teachers and there is a very purposeful buzz about the school. The first lessons are underway and we are establishing our routines with learning at the heart of everything we do.

New School building project

We are pleased to report that Kier, our building contractors, have made very good progress on the new building project and our students' first experience this morning was to meet in our brand new Sports Hall which was handed over to the school last week. For the next few weeks we will continue to operate the school in temporary accommodation. We are pleased to report that we have secured some excellent facilities to see us through this interim period thus ensuring no detrimental effect on the quality of learning in our school. We will keep you updated as the building project is finally completed and we are able to move in

Access routes

As many of you are aware, our Hamilton Road entrance gets very congested in the morning as students arrive and in the afternoon when they leave. In order to ease the flow of students in and out of school, we have successfully negotiated additional access to the school. From Tuesday 6 September, students will be able to access the school:

- Via the Hamilton Road gate.
- Via Crescent Road using the service entrance to the right of the UTC.

Students will be able to use the side entrance to the UTC if this is more convenient. They will only be able to use this from **8.25-8.40am** and **2.55-3.10pm (2.20-3.35pm on a Friday)** when this access point will be supervised. We are very grateful to our friends at the UTC for making this route available to us.

The UTC access road cannot be used at any other time (e.g. if a student is late to school or is coming in from a medical appointment). The Hamilton Road entrance must be used at all other times.

Upon arrival in the morning, students either move to the T block courtyard (in the case of Year 7 students) and to the Alfred Sutton courtyard (in the case of Year 8 students). At all times students have been instructed to use the correct paths and entrances and not to take possible short cuts.

In order to maintain the safety of the children, we are requesting that you do not bring your car onto the school site between the hours of 8.00am and 3pm (unless it is to pick up a sick or injured child). As there is a great deal of congestion in the area by the Hamilton Road entrance, it would also be helpful, if you need to pick up your child, to arrange to do so a little away from the area. Please can we ask that if you do need to park in one of the nearby roads, that you are respectful of local residents and you do not block residents' driveways. Please note that the unadopted road next to the school is a private road for residents only. We would also request that you remind your son/daughter of the need to take care, particularly at the starts and ends of the day and to use the pavements rather than the road when walking out of school and use the pedestrian gates at all times.

Cycling to School

Some students are cycling to school and this is something we encourage. Students are strongly advised to wear a cycle helmet – doing so has proven to reduce the risk of fatal head injury by 88% in the unlikely event of a serious accident. We should be grateful if you could ensure that your child's bike is in roadworthy condition and that they are aware of basic road safety as the roads around the school can be very busy. Students riding a bike should use the Hamilton Road entrance. They should park their bike in the designated areas on the site, ensure it is locked with a padlock and should dismount once they are on the school site.

Timekeeping

Punctuality with attendance at registration and lessons is very important. Students must be in registration by 8.40am to register with their tutors. A few students are arriving late to school. We would ask parents to urge their youngsters to get to registration by 8.40am each day so that we can ensure a prompt start to the school day, but no earlier than 8.25am, please.

Open Evening: Monday 10 October

Over the next few months we will welcome applications for our third intake in September 2017, when we will admit a further 180 students to Year 7. If you or your friends have a child currently in Year 6, then we would be delighted to see you at our Open Evening on Monday 10 September. Please see our website for details.

Yours sincerely



Dr P Thomas
Headteacher



Mr A Johnson
Deputy Headteacher