

Dear parents, carers and students,

Apologies; as there is so much information to share with you about the end of term and September this letter home is rather long! I am also sorry, that some of the information that you will be keen to know about next term simply isn't available just yet. I will of course update you again next week, and I will also write to you during the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August (unless government guidance changes before then) to confirm arrangements. To help organise the information, I've created a Frequently Asked Questions section, where hopefully I've addressed the common questions you may well have about a variety of things; but first things first...

### **Countdown to the summer holidays!**

It's certainly going to be a very different end to the summer term, but that doesn't mean that there aren't lots of things to celebrate and look forward to. Next week is certainly a busy one, both on site and in the virtual world. See below to remind yourself about what we've got planned:

### **Sessions on Site**

**Year 10** – Your sessions will last 30 minutes longer next week, so that we can introduce you to Kooth, distribute your enrichment packs, ordered uniform items and any items left in your lockers.

**Years 7-9** – We will be welcoming you into school for your face-to-face sessions with your form tutors. We hope the sessions reassure you about September as well as providing you with the chance to learn about Kooth, collect your enrichment packs, uniform and locker items.

Please see the FAQ at the end of this letter for more information about our Seize the Summer Enrichment packs and Face-to-Face Sessions.

**Years 12 and Key Worker Provision** – There is no change to this provision for next week.

### **Virtual Sports Day**

This begins via Show my Homework and Twitter on Monday. Every day next week, two new "sporting" challenges will be set. Take part, upload the evidence, and win points for your House. Good luck everyone – dust those trainers down, and why not do an extra Joe Wicks session tomorrow morning to get "match fit"?

### **Virtual Summer Concert\***

Thank you to everyone who has been brave enough to participate and audition in our search for a soloist. You can see our talented students on Wednesday via our Performing Arts Twitter page and newsfeed on our website. "Break a leg" Team Sherburn performers!

### **Virtual Celebration Assemblies\***

These assemblies celebrate the hard work students in Years 7 – 10 have put in during "Lockdown." It's been so difficult for your teachers to narrow the nominations down and what's very clear is that they wanted to praise each and every student who has uploaded their work. However, some students have gone on and above and beyond every single week, and our virtual Year Group Celebration Assemblies are a chance to congratulate them.

You will be able to view these assemblies via our website and Sherburn High School Twitter page on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

*\*The Summer Concert and Celebration Assemblies are not live events; they are pre-recorded so you can view them at a time that suits you.*

## **Results Days 2020**

Students in Years 13 and 11 will receive a letter early next week with the details about Results Days 2020. I can confirm that our intention is to allow students on site to collect their results and we will make provision for Year 13 students to have support if they need to go through clearing for university.

Sadly, it is very likely that parents/carers will be unable to accompany students onto site as this would be in breach with the rulings on mass gatherings. As a mother of a child who is about to collect her GCSE results this summer, I know first-hand how very difficult this will be and if the guidance changes between now and Results Day, you have my promise that I will write to you with new arrangements.

## **Prom!**

As you know our intention was to run Prom in September, however, Hazelwood Castle have confirmed that this is not currently possible given government guidance. Don't worry! All is not lost; we have been given a new date of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April and in the letter I send home about GCSE Results Day, I will explain how you can buy your prom tickets.

I know it's not what we wanted, but just think – plenty of time to work on those tans, practice your hairstyles and dance moves!

## **September 2020**

Mr Sibley's letter on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, outlined some of the key intentions within the DfE plan in relation to schools in September 2020. In the FAQ section I have tried to explain how the guidance will impact upon Sherburn High School.

I think it's really important to stress, that we can't wait to have all our students on site – we have missed them and we know that being with their peers and being taught by specialist teachers is vital for their education and wellbeing. But, it is also important to realise, that September will not see a return to "normal" school and there will be some limitations on what we can offer and do. We will of course continuously adapt our provision in line with changes to government guidance, but at all times what will be a driving factor is the health and safety of our school community.

## **And finally...**

As always, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you. I have been a Headteacher for over ten years, survived the flooding of one school, a fire, a rebuild, multiple snow days and bereavements of much loved members of school communities but I have never experienced a school year that has been as challenging as this one. I know, that without the support of "Team Sherburn" survival and even the thought of planning for September would have been overwhelming at points – and I would like to thank you. Your kind words through emails to staff have meant so much and the exceptional behaviour and work ethic of our students both on site and remotely have given us much pride. We can't wait to welcome them back in September!

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Seize the Summer Enrichment Work and Face-to-Face Sessions**

- 1. I read about the Face-to-Face sessions in one of your previous letters, but I haven't had any information about when my child's session takes place?!**

Please contact [admin@shs.starmat.uk](mailto:admin@shs.starmat.uk) if you have not received an email with a letter telling you when your child's session is.

- 2. My child currently accesses provision for Key Worker children – do they go to their form group meeting?**

Unfortunately, because learning bubbles are not able to mix, students attending key worker/vulnerable student provision will not be able to attend the face-to-face session with their tutor group. Please don't worry, everything that will take place in those sessions will be shared with this group on Tuesday.

- 3. Why are you setting more work for students? My child is exhausted, they've done every single piece of work set and they need a holiday!**

Please be reassured that the Enrichment Packs are completely optional. We know that students have had a wide variety of experiences in relation to school work during lockdown. Some students have been unwell, and unable to complete some tasks and the packs are designed to be supportive for these students. For others, the thought of more time away from school is causing anxiety and they want some work to do. Other students aren't sure how they feel, and the work is there "just in case."

What remains the most important thing to us, as always is your child's wellbeing. If doing some school work over the summer helps – then let them do some of the work. But, if doing some school work will cause additional stress and worry – then put the pack somewhere safe and forget about it!

No one will be punished for not doing any. Students will, however, be rewarded for completing some, because we believe that this is right and proper; it isn't meant as a competition though.

- 4. My child wants to do some work, but doesn't know where to start? There just seems so much!**

You're right! There is far too much work in the packs for any child to do all of it. The idea is that there are choices and students can pick what interests them, or something that they might find fun.

If they're stuck, teachers have recorded videos to support the packs on Show my Homework and these will be available to view from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. But – remember – the videos, just like the packs are completely optional.

- 5. For a variety of reasons my child can't come into school next week, but they are keen to at least see what the Seize the Summer work is – what happens?**

Any student unable to attend next week will receive their optional packs in the post.

- 6. My child has an appointment when he/she should be in to see their form tutor – can they swap the day and time they come in?**

We're really sorry but in order to comply with the rules on social distancing and the numbers of students allowed in a classroom, we are unable to swap students from one session to another.

# Frequently Asked Questions About September 2020

## 1. When will my child return to school?

In order to ensure every student has the chance to learn about our hygiene rules, adapted Behaviour Policy and their new timetable we will operate a staggered start to the school year.

This means that the first day back, for each year group will be different.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Year 12 students will return to school

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Year 7 and Year 11 students will return to school

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September: Year 8 students will return to school

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September: Year 9 students will return to school

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September: Year 10 students will return to school

## 2. Will my child be expected to wear full school uniform?

Yes, the government guidance states that students are expected to wear school uniform.

## 3. Will I be expected to wash my child's blazer every single day?

Luckily for all of us, the guidance now says that students do not have to wear clean blazers every single day.

## 4. My financial situation has changed and I'm worried about the cost of uniform – what should I do?

Please contact your child's House Achievement Leader or email [admin@shs.starmat.uk](mailto:admin@shs.starmat.uk) – we can help!

## 5. My child took the opportunity of lockdown to dye their hair blue/get a facial piercing – have the rules on these things changed?

No – the uniform rules remain the same. No child will be permitted to have purple/blue...hair or wear a nose stud or any other facial piercing (including clear nose studs or plasters over them).

## 6. Have the rules on mobile phones changed?

No – mobile phones remain banned on school site. Any student caught with their phone as per the Mobile Phone Policy will have it confiscated.

## 7. I see that the government guidance says students will be in year group bubbles – does mean an end to vertical tutor groups? And if so, how will my child know which tutor group they're in and where to go on their first day back?

The guidance states that year group bubbles should not mix with other year groups. Sadly, this means that vertical tutor groups will not be possible in September. In the letters home next week you will be told which tutor group your child will be in on their return and where they should go on their first day back to school.

## 8. How will you stop the mixing of year group bubbles?

We will run a staggered start and end to the school day. We will run staggered refreshment breaks. The details of the start and end times will be shared in the letters home next week.

In addition, where possible, students will be taught in a zoned part of the school. They will move within this zone to different lessons to allow for option lesson in Key Stage 4 or setting arrangements.

**9. If you zone the school, what happens to my child's access to specialist rooms for subjects like Science, Music or ICT?**

Students in Key Stages 5 and 4 will have priority access to specialist teaching rooms to avoid rooms being used by different year groups, without cleaning in between. This will mean that for some students, they will be taught Art, DT etc. in a classroom and we are busy modifying our curriculum to support this.

**10. My child gets the bus to school – how does this work in terms of keeping year groups separate?**

We are waiting for further information from North Yorkshire about school buses. As soon as we have it, we will share it.

**11. How do zones and year group bubbles work in relation to access to lockers and toilets?**

Unfortunately, students will not have access to their lockers when we return in September and in light of this, the locker company will be returning money to any parents who have already pre-paid for a locker.

Our current arrangements will exist for access to toilets, because the guidance permits this.

**12. What will my child need to bring to school?**

Students will need the following items:

- 2 blue/black pens
- 1 pencil
- A ruler
- An eraser
- A yellow highlighter pen
- A red pen
- A packet of pencils
- A glue stick
- A pair of scissors
- A scientific calculator

As students will be unable to share equipment or borrow items from staff, it is vital that students return with these items.

Students will also be permitted to bring one bag on site with them, for storage of school books and their pencil case.

New student planners will be issued on their first day of school.

***NB: More information will follow next week and again the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August about the return to school in September***