



Dear Parents and Carers

August 2018

Information for the start of the new academic year

With the start of term approaching, I wanted to write to all parents and carers and let you have some key information.

Firstly there is a reminder that Monday 3rd September is an inset day. As we wrote in our previous letter dated 29th June, on Tuesday 4th September we welcome students back and we are asking for Year 7 students to be in with us on this day first thing. We are asking for all other students to start on this day at **9.30am**. We have spoken with the buses and we have asked them therefore to readjust their timetables so that they are able to drop at 9.30am. The buses will therefore run one hour later than usual on that morning.

We have a new school day beginning this year with a slightly earlier start; however, from Wednesday 5th September, the buses will run at the same time in the morning as they are with us by the time the new school day begins. In the evening they will run about ten minutes earlier, leaving school at 3.25pm.

Our first day back on Tuesday 4th September coincides with the Tour of Britain cycle race passing the school with the main road being closed for part of the day. BANES have put a blanket closure together for all of the roads involved between midday and 4pm. This would cause us disruption at the end of the day; however we have been in contact with the office of the Chief Executive and his staff have assured us that the police are operating a rolling programme and they are expecting to open the road soon after the race passes which is due to happen soon after 2pm.

We have the launch of our new house system about to happen and I know that the new Heads of House are really looking forward to working as our pastoral leads in a different way. The vast majority of students are also working with a new tutor and this person will become really important in the role of supporting learning.

We have a new uniform in place for Years 7 and 10 in the first instance with the rest of the school following in due course (all students in other years can move over when they wish, but all need to be in the new uniform in September 2019) and therefore we have also published what will happen when the uniform does not meet our expectations. This will be managed by the tutors and Head of House. In addition we have re-published our expectations with regards to the equipment we expect every student to arrive at school with so that learning can be maximised and we ask that you go through this attached sheet and support us in this area.

We are often asked about homework and independent study. We have chosen to publish this year some guidelines on independent study which you will see attached. Work away from lessons is vital in order for students to consolidate and build on existing knowledge. We will continue to spend time looking at students managing themselves as a key leadership attribute and the information provided will be really useful to make sure that at home you as parents and carers are able to support their learning.

We spent some time at the end of last year reviewing our behaviour expectations and looking at the consequences where these expectations are not met and have made some changes in this area. I have attached a copy of a document that we would like you to spend some time going through, preferably if time allows with your child. Our work in this area has been based on the premise that every student has the right to learn and for this learning not to be interrupted by others. This is

something that we will reiterate with all students during our first assemblies with them. We have introduced an exit room in the school where students will be placed if they are not able to meet the expectations of the staff in their classrooms with regards to their conduct. Here, work will be provided and they will be supervised by a senior member of staff. If students are placed in this room, an after school detention will then follow with parents and carers given warning of this at least 24 hours in advance.

We are looking forward to the start of term and continuing to work alongside all of our students in order to maximise their potential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Beynon', with a horizontal line underneath.

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher