



4 September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had an excellent start to term and it has been particularly exciting to see students in our new building. There are a few pieces of information that I would like to explain or clarify as we all get used to new procedures.

Ms McPherson, our Latin teacher has recently been offered a training position at Cambridge University which leaves us without her for quite a number of weeks. I am not prepared to compromise on standards in the classroom and fill this with different supply staff every week so have put in some alternative provision until we are able to appoint long term cover. This means that students will not be having Latin lessons at the start of term and instead students will use this time to support their literacy and language learning. I appreciate how disappointing this may be but I hope that you understand we are endeavouring to provide the best possible alternatives.

As explained in a letter sent at the end of term, we have a new system for paying dinner money. The main office or dining room will no longer take cash to pay for dinners. Instead, your child will need to load any cash (coins or notes) themselves into the catering machine in school. They have been shown how to use this, but it does require a fingerprint to register their account. Please complete the biometric consent form if you have not done so already. Students who have refused permission will be issued with a swipe card instead. Exact amounts of money do not have to be put into the machine as it saves all money entered onto a central account for your child which they can top up at any time.

The office will now only accept cheques for school dinners and bank transfers can also be made. A main meal costs £2 and a meal deal, consisting of main meal and pudding costs £2.30.

We are all extremely excited to be in our new building and know that you may want to see it too. Despite the fact that it is fully safe and operational, there are still many improvements going on after school hours and I ask for your patience in giving us time to complete all of these before we allow parents to look around.

All Year 7 students will be undertaking some baseline tests in English and maths in the next couple of weeks. These will take place in lessons and no preparation is necessary. The information, along with all relevant data from primary school is used to assess if any student needs to move into a more appropriate teaching group. These changes will take place towards the end of September/early October and all students will be told in advance of any changes. This is to ensure that all students are in the best possible place for them to make excellent progress and be appropriately supported as soon as possible.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you to use our website for any key information, such as term and calendar dates, dinner menus and letters home.

Thank you so much for your support. All students have made an excellent start to the year and we are all really looking forward to working together as a school community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Brown', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Brown

Head of School