

25th September 2020

Dear Year 7 and 8 parents / carers,

It is hard to believe that we have had 3 full weeks of term already! The students have settled into a fantastic way of working and it continues to be a real pleasure to see classes focused, engaged and committed to their learning at all times in every classroom that I visit each day.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the following areas:

Revised catering arrangements - We are delighted to be able to make our dining room facilities available for all students at lunchtime from Monday 28th September. Our before school and morning break time provision will remain unavailable at this time. Students will be able to access the hot "grab and go" lunchtime offer at an allocated time, to ensure our safety measures are maintained. A reminder that we run a cashless catering system and accounts can be topped up via our Wisepay system. Further details on this and the menus and offers available can be found at www.deferrers.com/catering. Students can of course continue to bring in a packed lunch from home should they prefer.

Homework - At the start of this year we added a new aspect to our homework provision, with the addition of Knowledge Organisers as a tool to enhance information retention (further details are available at <http://www.deferrerstrust.com/knowledgeorganisers>). We are aware that this, alongside other homework tasks being set has created some concerns for students and parents. Thank you to those of you who have provided feedback recently with regard to this matter. We are currently reviewing the volume of homework that is being set. Please be reassured that staff are here to support your child should they have any queries with any aspect of their homework, and this should be addressed in the first instance with their class teacher or form tutor. It is important that we work together to support your children in their learning, without causing undue worries or concern. I am sorry if this has not been the case, and we will continue to work hard to ensure that we get the balance right between a rigorous, demanding homework policy and ensuring that we are not asking too much of your sons and daughters.

Year 7 meet the tutor evening - As a result of the current COVID-19 situation, we will regrettably not be able to host our Year 7 meet the tutor evening as we had hoped on Thursday 1st October. As an alternative, we would be grateful if you could spare 5 minutes to complete the short survey available at the following link: <https://forms.gle/4H623mK35MxniniC7>. Should you have a specific query you would like to discuss further, please indicate this on the form and a member of staff will be in touch.

Wet weather - With students being in the same room throughout the day, we will wherever possible try to ensure they all get outside at break and lunchtimes as long as the weather allows. Can I please ask therefore that students bring a suitable warm, waterproof coat with them to support us in facilitating this.

I would once again like to thank you for your continued support, and should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's form tutor via their student planner or the relevant year team via email on year7office@deferrers.com or year8office@deferrers.com at any point.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Lovell

Vice Principal – Head of Dove Campus