

11th September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

I wanted to write to you as we complete the first few days back in school following full re-opening. It has been lovely to see the students settling back into school life and being able to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students to the school.

I have been very impressed with how our students have adapted to the new way of entering and moving around the school as well as the new way of working in lessons. I would also like to thank parents and carers for helping to prepare and support the students through their transition back into school life.

On Monday and Tuesday all our staff completed the first of our professional training days. Alongside re-opening preparations, we had a particular focus on how we can be responsive in the curriculum and student wellbeing support, to help our students make the best personal and academic progress.

Next week we will be launching our whole school reading activity which will take place during tutor time once each week. As a school we will all be reading "The Other Side of Truth" by Beverley Naidoo. As well as supporting our literacy focus this provides interesting points for discussion. I would like to thank Mrs Woolley for finding and putting together the resources for this.

Finally, you may be aware that we had to complete an emergency fire evacuation of the school today. This was not a planned drill but due to a smoke alarm being triggered by a malfunction in the West Bank kitchen. As you can imagine, fire evacuation is one of the most challenging areas at the moment as students need to leave the buildings quickly and assemble in their designated safe area on the field, in their new tutor groups. The students conducted themselves very well, following staff instructions and wearing masks as they assembled in their areas. Fortunately, the issue in the West Bank kitchen was quickly resolved and students were able to return to their lessons without too much disruption to learning.

I hope all students and parents/ carers have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes



Mr Mark Turner
Head of Academy

