



Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

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13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Dear Year 7 Parent/Carer,**

Firstly, I hope you, your family and friends are keeping safe and well and are looking forward to the summer holidays. We hope you and your child found the virtual transition week helpful and informative in the process of preparing your child for the start of their time at Mary Webb School and Science College. However, you will also understand the importance of the induction days we hold in school, which unfortunately did not take place as normal this year. This, coupled with the fact your child will be joining the the largest year group the school has seen in over a decade, means we had to make some changes to the start of the school year. As you will be aware, one of these changes is the start date for Year 7 will be moved to Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. In making this decision we have considered the needs of each year group very carefully. In order to help Year 7 adapt to their new school, we will welcome them a day earlier than Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10. Year 11 students will join the Year 7s in starting a day earlier than the rest of the school, to help them acclimatise to the new routines and to support the youngest members of our school.

We have carefully developed risk assessments and routines to ensure all our students can return in September, in accordance with government guidance. It would particularly helpful if you could look at these routines with your child. Please refer to our school website to download the routines. For more details on how school will operate, please do not hesitate to contact the school with your query.

### **Routines for September**

We are aware sleep patterns may have changed for some children, so we would encourage a return to normal routines, conducive with school times a week or two before your child starts school in September. Linked to this is hydration, students are encouraged to bring water bottles with them to support learning – unfortunately, they will not be able to use water fountains around school, as a result of the guidance issued to schools.

On arrival at school, senior leaders will meet and greet your child along the other students, directing them to the main hall. Tutors will be waiting for their respective groups to arrive. When all students have registered, our headteacher Mr Lowe-Werrell and myself will address the group and talk to them about the plans for the day and upcoming weeks. Please do not be anxious, the daily routine will be discussed and we will start the day in a reassuring and supportive manner.

Tutors will then take tutor groups to their respective tutor rooms. Again, this will provide an opportunity to organise students for their time with us. Timetables and student planners will be issued, school expectations reinforced and more generally an opportunity gained for students and staff to begin building long lasting relationships.

## **Hygiene**

Students will be asked to sanitise their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will be available in every classroom, but we would encourage students to carry their own hand sanitiser (alcohol free). Tissues are also required, students should provide their own, a pack of tissues and sanitiser packed in the school bag would be sensible (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it).

## **School bag and equipment**

Students will need a sensible school bag and equipment to support their learning, however, Year 7s will be given a pencil case, with equipment and a school planner (Please refer to the checklist within your transition pack or the school website). Students must keep their school bag with them at all times, the cloakroom area will not be open but lockers can still be used. In addition, all students should carry at least two reading books with them (other sensible reading material is allowed, with two books as the minimum). Registration time on Mondays and Tuesdays will be used to promote the joy of reading and helps support literacy within the school, this is one of Mary Webb School and Science College's 'trademarks'.

## **School transport**

The Department for Education have confirmed the rules now in force for passengers on public transport (local bus services) will not apply on dedicated (contracted) school transport from September 2020, and hence social distancing will not apply to these buses/taxis. Students will be seated in Year Group 'bubbles', with the eldest Year Group 'bubble' (Year 11) sitting at the rear, progressing to the youngest at the front (Year 7). Students are advised to wear face coverings whilst on the bus/taxi (note this is mandatory on public transport). On arrival at school students should place reusable masks in a plastic bag, then placed in their school bag, whereas disposable face coverings must be placed in the bins provided. Hands must then be sanitised.

## **Uniform**

Expectations from September 2020

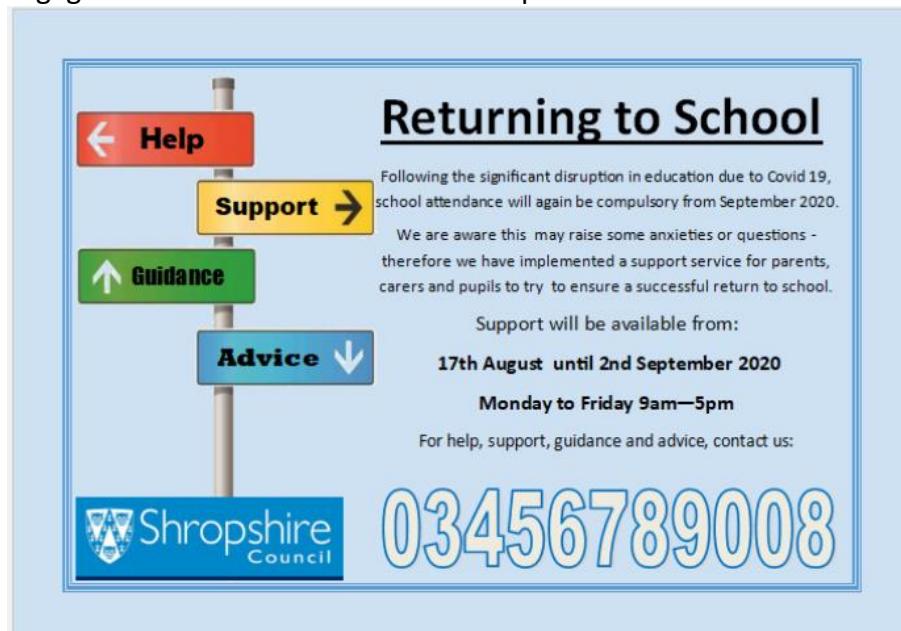


It is anticipated that all students will be wearing the correct uniform. Last year we experienced a small minority of students who did not meet our high expectations, parents were informed. We would appreciate the support of all parents for the start of the new academic year. This applies to school PE uniform as well. If you are unclear on uniform please refer to our website: <https://www.marywebbschool.com/uniform/>

### **Attendance**

As mentioned the school has worked very hard on creating sensible, realistic risk assessments, and making the school safe. We will work with families to secure full attendance for all students from the start of the new academic year. We are happy to speak to parents/carers should concerns remain. If your child or a member of your household shows symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, your child must not attend school, as per government advice (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>). If your child has symptoms, they must stay home for 7 days from the first sign of symptoms. If a member of your household has the symptoms, your child must stay home for 14 days, from the first sign of symptoms. Current government advice is to get tested if symptoms are present.

It will help us if you inform us of the result of a coronavirus (COVID-19) test, as this is a crucial part of our engagement with the NHS Test & Trace process.



### **Finally**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again, on behalf of the whole school community, for the support and patience you have shown us during what, considering the circumstances, has been a successful induction into Mary Webb School and Science College. We are very much looking forward to seeing your child in September, as they start their journey with us. Have a great summer and please stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

*S Pugh*

Miss S Pugh  
Assistant Headteacher

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