



Sandhurst Weekly News

Friday 4th September 2020

Headteacher's Weekly Review

It has been wonderful having all our students back in school. They have been incredible in their support for our new systems. I think it will take a few days for them (and staff) to get used to everything, but the level of respect they have shown for each other and the staff, as well as the level of responsibility for observing the new rules is outstanding.

I would also like to thank you, the parents, as students, with only a handful of exceptions, are in full uniform and fully equipped for school. This makes the day run more smoothly for everyone.

The message to students has been that whilst they have missed 15 weeks of school, we can most definitely recover from the time missed in school. Many, in fact most students don't have a great deal to catch up because they worked so hard in lockdown.

The key emphasis is on getting into lessons and making the most of the time in class.

I think returning to school after a summer holiday for students meant that the first day was relatively normal. They are used to that first day back feeling and whilst the Year 10 students who returned in June seemed subdued and unsure, for the majority of students this week that was not the case. I know many have seen each other over the summer and still there was great excitement as they reunited yesterday at the start of the school day.

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We have been completely bowled over by our lovely Year 7 students. Our chance have them in school was halted by lockdown and so although we have had online meetings with them and their parents it was a great pleasure to meet them in person. Returning after lockdown to a school with which you are familiar is not easy, but starting a whole new school is tough. However, they seemed more than ready and took most things in their stride. (They seem to be coping best out of everyone with our new one way system.) I know that despite lockdown we tried, led by Mrs Simmons, to make the transition as smooth as possible for every child but most credit for the manner in which these eager, well prepared and positive Year 7 students arrived must go to you, their parents. I am sure some of you were very nervous and anxious about their first day but your children were fantastic - so thank you for your support.

School yesterday felt like school and that is despite the arrows and barriers for one way systems and the gel, antibacterial spray and the separate breaks and lunches.

The measures we have put in place are there to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus. You will know the saying 'you can't please everybody'. This is certainly true for me in my line of work - but believe it or not, I do try. In this case, we have to put the health and welfare of our staff and students first and have to work with what we have - our site and buildings.

I know there are parents and children whose concerns regarding COVID-19 are as raw and heightened as they have ever been. I know that there are parents and children who now have a more relaxed attitude to the virus. We all have different circumstances and I include staff in this - those like many of you, caring for vulnerable dependents or with previously shielding loved ones.

The systems and processes we have put in place will not suit everyone - maybe school timings are inconvenient, or separate year groups mean brothers and sisters can't meet up, or not being able to park outside the front of school because the buses will be there. There are probably a few measures that irritate some people whilst some feel we haven't gone far enough.

At all times, we have put plans in place to follow government guidance and we will review often - so far at the end of each day!

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