



15 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus – Principal's Update

Welcome to our latest update and the penultimate one of this school year.

As we approach the end of the academic year, the pastoral team will be phoning all pupils and parents in Years 7 to 10 this week to have **one final check in** with you before the holidays, chase up work which needs to be returned to school, gather some key information to help us plan for September and to remind you of our expectations, especially around basic things like uniform and to answer questions about what school will look and feel like in September.

Our uniform supplier "First Class Kids" has notified us that all uniform items are in stock. Due to government guidance the number of visitors to the shop at any one time are limited, so they have asked that we communicate this with you and ensure you leave enough time to successfully purchase all uniform items before September. For all your uniform queries and orders, please email info@highfield.staracademies.org or ring school between 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

Since the Government announcement about all children **returning to school in September** we have been working hard on our plans for a safe return to school. We can share the following information with you so far to help you prepare:

- all new Yr7 pupils will be expected to return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September** for an induction day in school
- all pupils will be expected to return to school on **Thursday 3rd September (a separate communication will follow for other Year groups)**
- we are committed to providing our **full range of subjects** and as close to a **full curriculum offer** as possible to all year groups, with some safety adjustments for practical work where necessary
- **year groups will work in bubbles**, based in different areas of school
- in the early part of the year, pupils will stay in their year group bubbles/base rooms for most subjects and staff will move to them. There will be some **minimal pupil movement** to facilitate option subjects and practical activities
- each year group will have **designated toilet facilities**
- **catering services will be provided** (more details to follow in due course regarding staggered lunchtime arrangements and payments)
- **breakfast and homework clubs will be available**, with social distancing measures in place from early September
- there will be **no homework club in school** to support and protect staff training and meeting time but online support will be given

If you have any questions or concerns about the return to school or any other worries, including if anyone in your family develops symptoms, please do not hesitate to get in touch by email on info@highfield.staracademies.org This email address will be monitored throughout the summer holidays and a member of the Leadership Team will reply to you as quickly as possible.





I will be writing to you before September with details of what Highfield will be like for Pupils in the new academic year. In preparation for our full return to learning in school, we are also putting together a **required equipment list** for all pupils. To ensure that our return to school in September is as safe as possible, we will be limiting the sharing of equipment.

With this in mind, every pupil will have to have the following equipment **of their own**:

- pens
- pencils
- eraser
- ruler
- highlighter pens
- green pen
- pencil case
- scientific calculator



To support you with this, and to keep costs down for you, we will be selling pupil equipment packs including all the items listed for **just £10**. These can be paid for on ParentPay and will then be given to pupils on their first day in school from Wednesday 2nd September.

If you have a child starting in **Year 7 in September**, the next event to support their move to will be their induction day on **Wednesday 2nd September**. I hope that you enjoyed our Intake Evening on Monday 13th July. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Houston on 01253 965750 or emails us at info@highfield.staracademies.org.

We have now confirmed all our new Year 7 pupils will be invited into school with their new tutor group for a day on **Wednesday 2nd September**. This will give them a chance to have an induction in school and they will have a chance to work together and get to know the school and our amazing staff ahead of the other pupils coming into school. Please share this letter if you know someone who has a child starting with us in September.

Finally, there are some surprises in store for our pupils this week as we celebrate their successes and achievements over this somewhat unusual school year. Keep an eye out for more information on our Twitter pages @HighfieldLA.

Thank you as ever for your support.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr Galbraith



Dear Parents and Carers,

16 July 2020

Headteacher's Update – END OF SUMMER TERM 2020

Welcome to my final update of this school year. I cannot quite believe that we have reached the official end of term already and yet it feels like a lifetime since we were all together in school.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for your support during the last few unusual months. Your messages of support and good wishes have meant so much to us all at school and we are very grateful to everyone who has taken the time to ask after staff and to say thank you.



As we approach the end of the academic year, I know that the pastoral team have been very busy on the phone this week checking in with all students and parents in Years 7 to 10 before the holidays. One of their messages has been about support over the summer break. If you do need advice or support, please contact us on info@highfield.staracademies.org. This email address will be monitored throughout the summer holidays and a member of the Leadership Team will reply to you as quickly as possible. I will be writing to you again in August to outline the what the 'New

We know that this has been a very challenging and difficult time for many families in our community and we want you to know that we are here for you. So, please do let us know if you have had any change in circumstances, for example if you are now able to claim Universal Credit, as we may be able to offer you additional support such as Free School Meals for your child in school. Remember, our catering services run on a **cashless system** through ParentPay and it would be really helpful to us if you can ensure that your child is setup for this in September. We will send full details out to you about this so please look out for them.



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As we come to the end of the year, I also want to let you know about some staff changes for September. At the end of term we will say goodbye to Mr James, Mr Graham & Miss Leonard. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them all for their hard work and contribution to our school community during their time at Highfield and wish them every success and happiness in the future.

I am delighted to tell you that we have some new members of staff joining us in the new school year. They are:

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| - Mr Jabil: Vice Principal | - Miss Eatough: Teacher of English |
| - Mrs Phillipson: Director of Learning – Humanities | - Miss Lipton: Teacher of Maths |
| - Mr Spitieri: Teacher of MFL (French) | - Miss Hartley: Teacher of Science |
| - Mr B Povey: The Appleby Centre Manager | - Miss McGrath: Appleby Centre TA |
| - Miss Anderton: Appleby Centre HLTA | - Mr Sherwood: Appleby Centre TA |
| | - Miss McConaghey: Teacher of Humanities |





Highfield

Leadership Academy

We also have some staff taking on new posts within our school from September including some changes to our pastoral support system from September. Here are the Year Teams for your information:

Head of Year

- Year 7 Miss Houston
- Year 8 Mr Corner
- Year 9 Mrs Mallett
- Year 10 Miss Dove
- Year 11 Mr Kerr

I would like to wish everyone every success in their new roles for September.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to the team here at Highfield. We have indeed, been living and working in unprecedented times for the past few months and the circumstances we have found ourselves in as a result of the global Coronavirus pandemic have tested us all. Our team here has risen to every challenge we have faced and has found a way, with great creativity at times, to overcome them. I could not be more proud of their dedication, resilience and hard work cannot be overstated and I thank each and every member of our school community sincerely for their commitment, support, compassion and care. It means more than words can say and you really have [#BeenYourBest](#).



I look forward to working alongside you all and to leading this wonderful school in the new academic year.

Thank you once again for all of your support.

Please take care, stay safe and enjoy the summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Galbraith

