



3 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student

Welcome back from Lockdown!

The word I want you to have on your mind upon year 8 returning to school is **'maturity'**. Since schools went into lockdown in March 2020, year 8 have had to adapt and overcome challenges that require an increasingly mature mindset. Being able to see their maturity in action has given me a huge sense of pride and admiration but above all a strong feeling of hope; hope that despite these adverse circumstances, year 8 will go on to have great academic success; hope that year 8 will grasp the opportunities that being in school grant them; hope that year 8 will build upon the resilient foundations they have laid and excel at what is to come. In order to make hope a reality, it is imperative that maturity is at the heart of everything we do; we are, after all, preparing for the start of GCSE's in September.

So that we get off to the best possible start, I need year 8 to set the right tone: arrive promptly each morning – doors open at 8.20am with tutor starting at 8.30am; uniform is correct and well-presented; be prepared for the lesson with the right equipment and books; that they conduct themselves with pride and maturity in and around the school premises; speaking to others with empathy and understanding as we begin to make our way out of these bleak times. We have lost enough time as it is and we do not want to lose any more.

As a reminder of the uniform that is expected of students – they will be expected to be wearing: Maiden Erlegh blazer, white shirt, Maiden Erlegh tie, charcoal trousers, black leather (business style) shoes. I would like to clarify that trainers are not permitted; the only jewellery permitted is a small gold/silver stud – 1 per ear; nose piercings are not allowed; nail varnish is also not permitted.

To support year 8 with their return to school and to deliver some key messages, there will be an assembly for students at 10am (period 2) on Thursday 4 March, details of which will be posted on the year 8 support Google Classroom. It is vital that students attend.

Testing – Tuesday 9 March

Year 8 will be invited in for Covid testing.

8G1	12.20pm
8G2	12.40pm
8P1	13.10pm
8P2	13.30pm
8T1	13.50pm
8T2	14.10pm

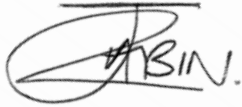
Students will need to arrive at the times above and enter the site via the PE gate. Students will be asked to line up and enter the testing centre. Students will need to ensure they are wearing masks for this whole process, they will also be expected to wear full school uniform.

Students will start school on Wednesday 10 March. They need to arrive to school at 8.20am as normal and tutor will start at 8.30am.

I cannot wait to welcome back Year 8 to school so that they can recapture the joy of learning, satisfy their curious minds and experience school as it was intended as we attempt to return to normal. Although we will not get there overnight, with the maturity that year 8 possess, we will get there that bit quicker.

Until then, stay safe and we will see you soon.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J RABIN' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Rabin
Head of Year 8