



Founded in 1853

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Headteacher:

Mr M Cooper MEd

Deputy Headteachers:

Mrs S Coluccio BEd (Hons)

Mrs F Johnston BA (Hons)

19 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

End of term 2020-21 and Start of term Sept 2021-22

I am sure you, like us may have felt the end of the summer term would never arrive, and here we are with the last 5 days ahead of us. I would like to share with you our arrangements for the end of this term and also the planned phasing of return in September. However, firstly I would like to close the year, taking a few moments to reflect upon the last academic year.

Forgive me for not focussing on the obvious challenges we have experienced during the last 18 months, sadly we are all too familiar with these and continue to adapt to the next set of guidance and lifting of restrictions. To any of our families and individuals who have suffered a bereavement during this period, please be assured of our continued thoughts and prayers for your loss. Our offers of help and support will continue and please make contact should there be anything we can help with as a family community.

It was an utter delight to welcome so many of you back on site for the Target Setting Day on Monday 12 July, over 94% of our students and families attended face to face meetings and this included our new Year 6 students and their families. So much of our work and aspiration is built upon our positive communication with yourselves, to resurrect this contact was incredibly special and your efforts to attend quite humbling.

We have achieved a huge amount this year and our focus has been unwavering in ensuring our students re-engage with all aspects of school life, not just their academic studies. This they have done with great enthusiasm, enabling trips, visits, rewards events and sports days all to go ahead, whilst retaining an eye for 'giving back' both to school and the wider community. They have weathered the challenges of isolation with genuine maturity, and I am sure will be well placed to return to further normality in September. When we do return, students will, once again, move around the building, meaning they will experience their lessons in specialist spaces rather than the restrictions of 'bubbles'.

End of term arrangements:

School closes for summer at 12.30pm on Friday 23 July.

All students will be registered at 12.20pm and dismissed at 12.30pm.

Any student wishing to collect a lunch can do so from the dining hall as they leave, we will be operating a 'grab and go' system for all students.

Buses will be booked to leave at 12.40pm.

Start of term arrangements 2021:

The start of term will be staggered to facilitate a safe and orderly return to site, affording staff the opportunity to be ready to welcome students to site and start an exciting year in their continued development.

Monday 6 September: Staff Training – No students attend

Tuesday 7 September: Staff Training – No students attend

Wednesday 8 September: Year 7 and Year 11 return for an 8.40am start.

Thursday 9 September: Years 8, 9 and 10 return for an 8.40am start, Year 7 and Year 11 return for day 2.

Friday 10 September: All year groups are in school following normal timetables.

As you will have seen in the national press, schools are encouraged to undertake testing with all students when they return in September. Whilst this makes sense, we are keen not to further disrupt provision for our students. Our phasing in of students will enable all students to be tested twice within their first 5 days of school and will not disrupt their learning time.

Please note that from September we will no longer use the 'Bin Yard' entrance for Years 10 and 11, instead all students will be entering the school via the field gate or the main gate, however the main gate will be reserved for Year 7 students only for the first 2 weeks of term. We will do all we can to keep you informed of any enforced changes which need to be made and this will be done via the website or MyED communications. Should you have any concerns over the summer break, please do not hesitate to contact us on the welfare email address for the Year group your child will be in when they return to school. These email addresses are

Yr7welfare@mountstmarys.org

Y8welfare@mountstmarys.org

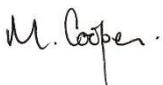
Y9welfare@mountstmarys.org

Yr10welfare@mountstmarys.org

Yr11welfare@mountstmarys.org

All that remains to be said is that the whole school staff thank you for your patience, resilience and messages of thanks and support, this has been a challenging period for us all but together we have met and beaten the challenges to date and will continue to do so as we move forward. We wish you, your families and all the Mount St Mary's community a fantastic summer, stay safe and we look forward to everyone returning in September.

Kind regards



Mr M Cooper
Headteacher