

St Crispin's School

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SHA/SH

10th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome year 9 students back in to school following a prolonged absence, and we are very much looking forward to another busy and successful year.

Year 9 is going to be a very exciting year where they will be fast approaching the end of key stage 3 and giving serious thought to their plans for the future. Straight away this term all students will begin their GCSE Science studies, and at the start of the spring term we will begin the process of choosing GCSE options, it is a very exciting time and hard to believe that it has almost come around so quickly! We will write to you next term with a lot more information about this and how the process works. You will also find attached to this letter the curriculum overview for year 9.

I would also ask that you further encourage your son/daughter's independence and responsibility with regard to attendance, punctuality, equipment and uniform.

Punctuality and attendance is imperative in order to ensure that valuable learning time is not lost. I will take this opportunity to remind you that students should be aiming for attendance of 95% or above. In terms of punctuality it is vital that students arrive to school and at lessons on time. Being just five minutes late each day can equate to three days of learning being lost. This will be particularly important in the current climate as we aim to keep our 'bubbles' separate on entering and moving around the school.

In addition, if students are to achieve their best, it is important that they bring pens/pencil, exercise books, textbooks, a calculator and any other equipment that is pertinent to the subject. Furthermore, all students will need to have an appropriate reading book in school each day – all Key Stage 3 students will take part in 10 minutes of silent reading each day and we wish for everyone to be able to take part.

I also ask for your assistance in terms of both having the correct uniform and it being worn in an appropriate manner. You will have received a letter at the end of last term regarding this but can I reiterate that high uniform standards are indicative of the high standards that we have at St. Crispin's. Our uniform is part of our school identity, uniting our students and we want them to take pride in wearing it. Therefore, please can we ensure that in year 9, students should not be wearing make-up. The uniform should be worn smartly with the tie done up properly and shirts tucked in to their trousers and skirts should be worn to an appropriate length, no shorter than just above the knee. All shoes should be black with no decoration, and trainers will not be permitted.

If your family circumstances have recently changed and you are now in receipt of Universal Credit, please follow this [link](#) to apply for Free School Meals for your son/daughter. If your son/daughter is in receipt of Free School Meals then this entitles them to a meal in the school restaurant during term time. Students in receipt of Free School Meals will also receive the Pupil Premium Grant funding; more information about this can be found on the school [website](#).

Your son/daughter has now been given a new planner and should have completed the school timetable pages. Personal study should be recorded by students in their planners and is expected to be completed to the required standard by the deadline given. While we encourage students to take responsibility for meeting deadlines and managing their time, a little parental help with planning personal study at the beginning of the year would be most appreciated. As a school we will now set all personal study using Microsoft Teams as was the case before the Summer break. Whilst it is currently not possible to set up parent accounts for Teams you are able to download the Teams app to your device and log in using your child's credentials to keep an overview of work set. If you are unfamiliar with Microsoft Teams I have produced a series of 'how to' videos for some of the basics that will be required:

How to access Teams - <https://youtu.be/Z8GxhPimVlc>

How to complete assignments (crucial for personal study) – <https://youtu.be/x6PrKnpgU44>

How to view feedback - <https://youtu.be/Qs4NaBL5H5A>

How to join meetings or 'Spotlight' lessons – https://youtu.be/T-85su_JZ5Q

How to split your screen - <https://youtu.be/JHcPpGi7Zl4>

As with every year, I look forward to seeing many year 9 students taking part in a wide range of sporting and performing arts events during the year, and hearing about their achievements both in class and in out of school activities. It was a pleasure to see all the hard work and varying activities that students were involved in during what was an unusual summer term. I am confident that the year will continue to excel in year 9 and continue to make me very proud.

Over the school year, each form group will complete a one-hour wellbeing session with our school life coach Mrs Hartley. During this time students will have the opportunity to understand and learn key life skills, such as resilience and perseverance, providing a valuable toolkit for their immediate and long-term futures.

Finally, there are a few important dates that you need to be aware of and we ask that you avoid making medical appointments at these times.

16th November 2020 Focus day – Underage Drinking

4th January 2021 INSET Day

14th January 2021 Year 9 Options Evening

4th February 2021 Year 9 Parents' Evening*

8th February 2021 GCSE Options deadline

17th & 18th May 2021 Injections

7th June 2021

Year 9 Exam Week

2nd July 2021

In School Maths Day

*Please note that whilst it is our deepest wish that we are able to run our Parents' Evenings within school this will depend on the national and local circumstances with regards to COVID-19 and therefore may need to be completed virtually. I will write to you in the new year to confirm the arrangements for Parents' Evening.

I look forward to continue working with your son/daughter, should you have any queries regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Sean Hatton
Head of Year 9

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