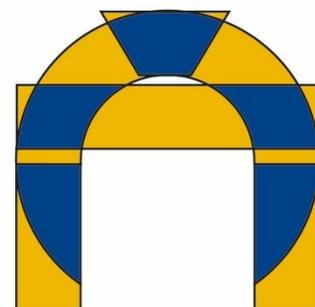


3 September 2020



Archway

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for supporting us in our first two days of school. Now that everyone is in, we have been able to start assessing how our new system is working.

We noticed this morning that there was a backlog of cars trying to enter the school. This was due to more cars than usual coming to drop off students (typical for Day 1 and not helped by the wet weather). This should calm down in the next few days as more students decide to walk to school. Walking to school has many benefits:

- Fitness
- Environmental
- Reducing traffic jams
- COVID safety

It is very important that students arrive at the allocated times; a large number of Year 10 and 11 students arrived well before the scheduled start time this morning. We understand that there may be cases when it is difficult to avoid arriving early and one or two students with medical exemptions are being allowed to arrive ahead of schedule. Years 7, 8 & 9 and Sixth Form students should aim to arrive no earlier than 08:30am and Years 10 & 11 no earlier than 08:45am. The *small number* of students who arrive before the start time will be directed to separate waiting areas.

Catering at School

The catering team are in school and the facilities are fully up and running. We have made the canteen COVID safe with all students washing hands before using the fingerprint payment system and we are using staggered break/lunch times.

Library – Message from Mrs Locke

In this initial period we are implementing procedures to keep everyone safe, including:

Staff and students will be expected to use the hand sanitiser on entering the Library

- To maintain year group 'bubbles', the Library will only be open to Year 7s at break and lunchtime
- Staff and students should stay behind the 2m marker line from the service desks
- Regular cleaning will be implemented during the day
- Returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours before they are returned to the shelf

Accessit

Just before Lockdown we bought and installed a brand new and very exciting library management system - Accessit. Students can interact with the library experience and reach everything they need with their login, which takes them to an interactive homepage where they will find links to websites, Twitter, new books, podcasts, book reviews, images, videos and much more.

Students can reserve and renew items, read and write book reviews, view citations, and much more. Each borrower also has their own unique dashboard, where they can view and manage their loans, reserves and overdues.

If students wish to reserve a book they can do it via Accessit and we will email them when it is ready to collect. Books will have the student's name on a slip of paper tucked inside.

If your son or daughter has a Library book, could I ask you to return them asap (there is a designated box just inside the Library door). Many thanks!

Skirts

We have decided to extend the time by which all students choosing to wear skirts must wear the new, pleated version. Please ensure that by the October half term break, all skirts are the new version.

Finally

I would like to share my initial thoughts for Archway as we look ahead to the forthcoming year.

1. As a 'starter for 10' I have a desire that:

Archway is a School that fosters, promotes and embraces:

- *Success and celebration of success;*
- *Opportunities for the development of the individual;*
- *A spirit of trust and encouragement;*
- *Future (especially green) technologies.*

This term, we shall continue to seek your feedback and this, along with my thoughts will feed into the School's vision which is developed by our governing body.

2. **PTA:** I am very keen to establish a Parent Teacher Association. If anyone would like to help get this going, please get in touch with the school. It is vitally important that you as parents/carers take an active involvement in the school, in order that we can guide the school's future together.
3. **My Wishlist:** This morning I had the chance to speak to all students through a remote link to all of their classrooms. I briefly shared some things which I would really like to work on this year:
 - a. **Student Leadership Opportunities:** Growing this throughout the school and giving the students of all ages a chance to shine.
 - b. **Move Towards Zero-Carbon:** We must have a dream to be zero carbon at some point in the future and make steps towards this. I am sure that a large number of students are keen to show their leadership in this area.
 - c. **Raising aspirations:** I talked about the rise of artificial intelligence and that we must all prepare for a future which is changing rapidly. There are opportunities out there beyond our traditional borders and I want every student to 'dream big'.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We are all very happy to have the students back into school today.

Yours faithfully



Kieron P Smith
Headteacher