



Dear parent/carer,

As you may have seen in the news last week, the Welsh government have announced the welcome news that all students will be back in school full time from September. There are a number of important questions that parents have been contacting the school with over the last week or so which this letter will aim to address:

**1. When will term start?**

Our intention is for Year 7 students to start on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. As they have missed out on transition this year, initially they will be the only year group in the school. Your son/daughter needs to be on site by 8:30am for an 8:40am start.

**2. Which form will my child be in?**

Ordinarily your child would have found out their form on transition day earlier this month. We have decided to delay publicising the classes until September as Whitmore has proven to be very popular this year with over 70 students on the waiting list. We were not able to finalise forms until the appeals process is complete.

**3. How will forms be organised?**

The government guidance suggests that students should be kept in a group of the same 30 students for the majority of time. Due to this we have decided to make Year 7 classes mixed ability as opposed to placing students in sets. Mr Williams (Head of Year 7) has worked closely with primary links to ascertain the best social groupings possible for September.

**4. Will my child have fallen behind due to school closures?**

Many of us have spent the lockdown trying (and in my case often failing) to home school our children. We completely understand that the learning of students will have been affected by the lockdown and will adapt our schemes of work to ensure students are not adversely impacted by the school closures.

**5. Should I buy PE kit?**

We believe that PE is a vital part of the curriculum. The major challenge in teaching PE with Covid restrictions will be the changing facilities. Due to this we are going to ask students to come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE to negate the need for changing.

**6. What food will be available for breaktime and lunch?**

We have created a staggered break and lunch timetable which will reduce the number of pupils in the canteen at any one time. This will allow for a full canteen provision.

Mr Emery has created a detailed presentation containing the essential information needed for September. This can be found on the Whitmore transition twitter account [@transitionwhs](#). This presentation can also be found on the school website.

Many thanks

Innes Robinson