



Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

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13th July 2020

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I hope you, your family and friends are keeping safe and well and are looking forward to the summer holidays. As you will be aware the Year 11 start date will be Thursday, 3rd September 2020. We had to make this decision after careful consideration of the needs of each year group. Our new Year 7 will not only be the largest year group the school has welcomed in over a decade, but they also missed out on the type of induction your child had during the summer term. Whilst we were able to provide a week of transition activities for them to complete in their primary schools, we hope you can appreciate it is not the same as being in school and meeting the teachers in person. Year 11 students will join the Year 7s in starting a day earlier than the rest of the school, to help them acclimatise to the new routines and to support the youngest members of our school. We look to all our Year 11s for student leadership, particularly our prefects.

We have carefully developed risk assessments and routines to ensure all our students can return in September, in accordance with government guidance. It would particularly helpful if you could look at these routines with your child. Please refer to our school website to download the routines. For more details on how school will operate, please do not hesitate to contact the school with your query.

Routines for September

We are aware sleep patterns may have changed for some children, so we would encourage a return to normal routines, conducive with school times a week or two before your child starts school in September. Linked to this is hydration, students are encouraged to bring water bottles with them to support learning – unfortunately, they will not be able to use water fountains around school, as a result of the guidance issued to schools.

On arrival at school students should head directly to their tutor room. Senior leaders will meet and greet students, guiding them to their tutor rooms. Tutors will be waiting for their respective groups to arrive and when they do, students will be asked to sanitise their hands. When all students have registered, tutors will talk to students about the plans for the day and upcoming weeks. Please do not be anxious, we will discuss the daily routine and start the day in a reassuring and supportive manner. Timetables and student planners will be issued, school expectations reinforced and more generally an opportunity gained for students and staff to begin to catch-up.

Hygiene

Students will be asked to sanitise their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will be available in every classroom, but we would encourage students to carry their own hand sanitiser (alcohol free). Tissues are also required, students should provide their own, a pack of tissues and sanitiser packed in the school bag would be sensible (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it).

School bag and equipment

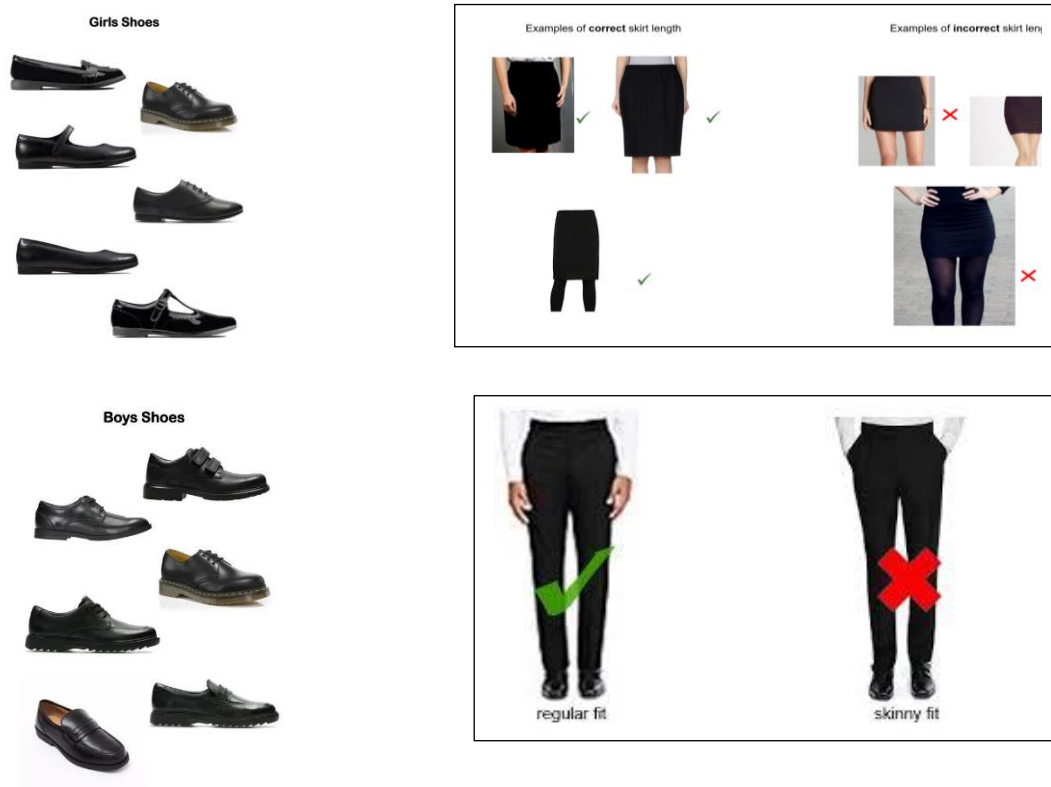
Students will need a sensible school bag and equipment to support their learning (Page 4 of the school planner has an equipment list). Students must keep their school bag with them at all times, the cloakroom area will not be open but lockers can still be used. In addition, all students should carry two reading books with them (other sensible reading material can be considered, with two books as the minimum). Reading registration for Years 10 and 11 will be moved to Thursday and Friday as we continue to promote the joy of reading and supporting literacy within the school; this is one of Mary Webb School and Science College's 'trademarks'.

School transport

The Department for Education have confirmed the rules now in force for passengers on public transport (local bus services) will not apply on dedicated (contracted) school transport from September 2020, and hence social distancing will not apply to these buses/taxis. Students will be seated in Year Group 'bubbles', with the eldest Year Group 'bubble' (Year 11) sitting at the rear, progressing to the youngest at the front (Year 7). Students are advised to wear face coverings whilst on the bus/taxi (note this is mandatory on public transport). On arrival at school students should place reusable masks in a plastic bag, then placed in their school bag, whereas disposable face coverings must be placed in the bins provided. Hands must then be sanitised.

Uniform

Expectations from September 2020



Thank you to the vast majority of students who wear the correct uniform. A small minority of students (and parents) were spoken to prior to lockdown where uniform was not meeting our high expectations. We would appreciate the support of all parents, for the start of the new academic year. This applies to school PE uniform as well. If you are unclear on uniform please refer to our website: <https://www.marywebbschool.com/uniform/>

Attendance

As mentioned the school has worked very hard on creating sensible, realistic risk assessments, and making the school safe. We will work with families to secure full attendance for all students from the start of the new academic year. We are happy to speak to parents/carers should concerns remain. If your child or a member of your household shows symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, your child must not attend school, as per government advice (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>). If your child has symptoms, they must stay home for 7 days from the first sign of symptoms. If a member of your household has the symptoms, your child must stay home for 14 days, from the first sign of symptoms. Current government advice is to get tested if symptoms are present.

It will help us if you inform us of the result of a coronavirus (COVID-19) test, as this is a crucial part of our engagement with the NHS Test & Trace process.

Returning to School

Following the significant disruption in education due to Covid 19, school attendance will again be compulsory from September 2020.

We are aware this may raise some anxieties or questions - therefore we have implemented a support service for parents, carers and pupils to try to ensure a successful return to school.

Support will be available from:

17th August until 2nd September 2020

Monday to Friday 9am—5pm

For help, support, guidance and advice, contact us:

03456789008

Shropshire Council

Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again, on behalf of the whole school community, for the support you have shown us and your child during these last few months of home learning. I hope you have found it rewarding, even though at times it may have been challenging. I can assure you we are all looking forward to seeing your child in September, as we continue to work with them, opening minds and widening horizons. Have a great summer, please stay safe.

Yours sincerely

M Jervis

Mr M Jervis
Assistant Headteacher

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