



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

Head teacher: Mr P J Lowe -Werrell

TEL: 01743 792100

FAX: 01743 792110

Email: [admin@marywebbschool.com](mailto:admin@marywebbschool.com)

Website: [www.marywebbschool.com](http://www.marywebbschool.com)

12 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you, your family and friends are well and looking forward to the summer break. As a school community of students, parents/carers, staff and governors, I know this break will be a welcome opportunity to relax and unwind.

In writing to you at the end of another academic year - which, once again, has been unlike any other we have experienced as a school community - I am reminded of how resilient we are when we work together. In previous years, "working together to ensure success for all" has always seemed focused on preparing our youngsters for the next stages in their education; preparing them for their next steps beyond the school. However, our collective response to the spring lockdown, and subsequent return to school, has shown that the success we achieve by working together, as a whole school community, goes far beyond the support we give our youngsters when they are in school and in the classroom. Furthermore, the staff and governors would like you to know the support we have received from students, parents and their families has been truly overwhelming - thank you.

Students and staff are justifiably looking forward to the summer break. We all hope the weather is good so we can get outside and enjoy the fresh air, in order to come back refreshed and recharged, ready for the autumn term. And looking ahead to September 2021, we know the first half of the autumn term will be a particularly busy one for all years.

### **Return to school dates**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September – **Year 7 and Year 11 ONLY**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September – all year groups in school

### **Uniform**

We are looking forward to welcoming students back in September and seeing them walk through the school gates, smartly wearing the correct uniform. We are aware parents/carers will be using the summer break to make the final uniform purchases of the year, either because their child has grown, or because some aspects may not meet the requirements of the uniform policy. If either of these scenarios apply to you and you are unsure whether items you need to purchase meet the requirements, please look at our website for guidance <https://www.marywebbschool.com/uniform/> and the photos overleaf.

## Trouser and skirts

There are plenty of shops which offer a broad range of uniform items to wear in schools. As you are aware, all schools set their own uniform policy, which can include a very narrow range of options. We have ensured all items of our school uniform can be purchased locally. To ensure your child is dressed in the correct uniform for our school, we recommend purchasing trousers and/or skirts from School Shop Direct in Shrewsbury, as they know which trousers and skirts are part of our school uniform. If you choose to purchase the trousers and/or skirts elsewhere, we would at least recommend collecting your child's jumper from the shop and taking the opportunity to look at the trouser and/or skirt options. This will enable you to identify the correct material and styles to conform with our uniform policy. We hope this information, and the pictures below, will support you in buying the correct trousers and/or skirt for your child: <http://schoolshopdirect.co.uk/product-category/schools/schools-mary-webb-college/>



## Shoes

Black shoes of sensible design are required such as those shown below.

We are aware many shops sell black footwear which may appear in displays named as 'School Shoes', however this does not mean they have checked with schools that they adhere to school uniform policy. Many major sporting brands will sell trainers which are all black and relatively plain looking, but they are not school shoes – they are simply black trainers. If you can see the logo of a sporting brand on the footwear you are considering, it is most likely a pair of trainers you are looking at, not a pair of black school shoes. Please ensure you purchase school shoes, which are similar to the examples below.



## Energy and carbonated drinks

As a Healthy School we are committed to helping young people understand the significance of adopting healthy lifestyles. This is one of the reasons why students are not permitted to bring 'energy' or carbonated drinks into school, whether to consume during the day or after school.

Of particular concern are 'high-energy' drinks, which are often carbonated and contain high levels of caffeine and sugar. In most cases, these drinks have warnings on the can which state they are unsuitable for children. If a student is found in possession of a drink with such a warning on it, we will confiscate it and dispose of it. We want to be clear on this point, to ensure students avoid the risk of wasting their money – 'high-energy' drinks are relatively expensive, so it is worth avoiding the risk of confiscation by not bringing them into school. Other forms of carbonated drinks will be confiscated too, as they are also not permitted.

The best way to ensure your child is properly hydrated throughout the school day is for them to bring water with them in a re-usable bottle with a 'sports cap'. Also, our canteen sells water, flavoured water, milk and fruit juice. We allow students to drink water in lessons.

## **Chewing gum**

Chewing gum is not permitted in school. If any student is found to have chewing gum in their possession, it will be confiscated.

## **Mobile phones**

As you know, we permit the safe, sensible and appropriate use of mobile phones in school. We understand many parents/carers consider providing their child with a mobile phone as part of keeping them safe – it enables a child to contact their parents on their journey to and from school.

As a school, we think it is important for our students to understand and practise safe, sensible and appropriate usage of mobile phones. This means there may be some occasions when teachers specifically ask students to use their mobile phones, in a lesson. Our students understand this and it is very rare for a student to use their mobile phone, during a lesson, without specific permission from their teacher. However, you may be aware of recent media reports of the concerns the Secretary of State for Education has around mobile phones in schools. Whilst our experience has been overwhelmingly positive, we recognise the need to improve some aspects of how students use their mobile phones when they are in school.

The canteen is a 'Mobile Phone Free Zone'. This rule was introduced in September 2019, but was temporarily suspended in September 2020. It will apply again from September 2021.

We know some students may wish to play on mobile game apps, access news/sports/current affairs websites or check ClassCharts on their mobile phones during social times – this would be considered safe, sensible and appropriate usage in a place of work, when on a break. However, students should not use their mobile phones during social times during the school day for social communication purposes. Furthermore, they should not be taking pictures, videos or making sound recordings during their social times or on their journeys to and from school when using school transport. If any student is suspected of using their mobile phones in this way, we may confiscate the mobile phone until the end of the school day. It is our hope this reminder of our expectations leads to the continued safe, sensible and appropriate use of mobile phones in school.

If you wish to discuss any of the reminders in this letter, please feel free to contact any member of our Senior Leadership Team.

Yours sincerely,

*PJ Lowe-Werrell*

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell  
Headteacher

*S Pugh*

Miss S Pugh  
Assistant Headteacher, KS3

*G Davies*

Mr G Davies  
Deputy Headteacher

*M Jervis*

Mr M Jervis  
Assistant Headteacher, KS4

*E Weston*

Miss E Weston  
Assistant Headteacher

*P Salmon*

Mr P Salmon  
Business Manager