

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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Headteacher: Ms. C. Costello

Dear Parent/Carer,

## End of the first week!!

When your children come home this evening please tell them a huge **'Well done!'** from all of us at the school. They have all been amazing this week; they have been cooperative, patient and seem happy to be back in school with lots of smiles being in evidence. In particular I want to praise our new students in years 7 and 12; it is not an easy time to be joining a new school and they have all dealt with it admirably well. One year 7 child this morning told me that she and others in her group feel like they have been here for at least three years already!

## Health & Safety

Like all schools and work places at the moment, we have put a lot of effort into planning for the full return. I thought it might be useful to provide you with some visuals to illustrate just a few of the new measures your child will have seen around the school this week.

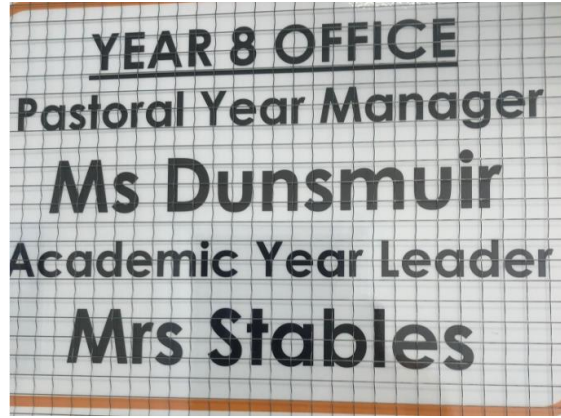


Signs indicating areas for different year group 'Bubbles'





Hand sanitisers in every room. Over 200 across the site.



Pastoral Year Managers and Academic Year Leaders now located together near or in respective 'Bubbles'.



Classrooms accessed using outside doors where present.



'Catch it, bin it, kill it' lidded bins across the site; 250 of them.

As with all plans of this scale we have come across some issues this week which we have dealt with quickly. We are aware that younger students are finding it difficult to get through the canteen and eat their food within the half an hour. We should have provided them with more information in advance so that they could make some decisions about what they might want to select before getting to the queue; this we have now done. We have taken a relaxed approach however, in allowing them the time to eat their food before going to their lessons.

We were unable to put picnic benches in the Year 8 outside area as it is a fire evacuation point and so this made it difficult for them to eat their food. We have now provided this year group with their own designated eating space inside the school. They can of course still go outside to eat if they prefer.



Eating space for Year 8 only

### **Road Safety Concerns**

I'm afraid I have a number of requests that I need to make regarding safety at the beginning and end of the school day;

1. Please do not stop your car on the zig zag lines that run all along the school fence on Caulfield Rd in order to drop your child off in the morning. This creates a hazard.
2. If you are picking your child up from the front of the school, do not park and wait opposite the school in the bus stop and on the yellow lines. Yesterday I witnessed two buses having difficulty passing which then pushed one of the buses very close to the pavement's edge where students were walking.
3. If parking in the Leisure Centre to meet your child exiting to Delaware Rd, please arrive before 3:00 p.m. and allow the majority of our students to clear the area before leaving again.

I am conscious that more parents may be transporting their children to and from school at the moment so that they do not have to use public transport but it would be very helpful and certainly safer for all of the students if you could arrange to meet your child a short distance away from the school.

This week we have been opening the year 7 gate early and allowing parents to stand on the school side of the gate rather than gather as a crowd on the pavement outside the school whilst they wait for their child. I need to be clear that this is only a temporary fix whilst everyone finds their feet in regards to the school day. From next week can I ask year 7 parents, and indeed any parent that meets their child on foot, to not arrive at the school until 3:00 p.m. so that we do not have groups of adults gathered at the end of the day.

I know that this is not easy as we are a school with over 1800 students on site, located right in the middle of a residential area with narrow roads and pavements. However, there are simple steps that we can take to improve safety in what is only a ten minute period at the end of the day; in addition to the steps I have asked you to take above, we will also reinforce with our students their responsibilities regarding road safety.

### **Attendance**

Every day this week our attendance has been over 96% which is very encouraging. As we move in to the cold and flu season it is going to become more difficult to discern the normal symptoms of a cold from possible COVID symptoms. It also feels that the government guidance is becoming ever more confusing. In order to support you in making decisions around sending your child to school we have published two documents on our website that can be accessed via this link <https://www.shoeburynesshigh.co.uk/news/?pid=49&nid=4&storyid=34>

Getting into new routines in the morning, particularly following this prolonged absence from school, can be tricky and for some children this week this has meant they have been late to school.

It is always important that your child arrives on time for school as being late puts them on the back foot, but in our current mode of operation it is absolutely crucial that your child arrives on time so that they can then enter through their designated entrance with the rest of their Bubble. Safeguarding demands that we lock our gates promptly when staff have to leave duty to supervise groups inside the school. That means late students are all having to enter school via the one entrance and be escorted to their Bubble. We have now had a full week of school and so next week I hope to see no late students; I accept that those travelling on public transport are sometimes late through no fault of their own.

### **After school provision**

A reminder that from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September we will be providing after school revision until 4 p.m. for years 11 student and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for year 13 students. The schedules are on our website and can be found <https://www.shoeburynesshigh.co.uk/page/?title=Revision+Guidance&pid=72>

We are still looking at how we might be able to safely use our library for the after school Homework Club, once we have had a complete run through of the timetable and dealt with any snagging issues we will be better placed to plan this.

### **Communication**

If you have not yet done so could you ensure that you have downloaded the Edulinkone app. There is a link on our website and an email for communicating any issues <https://www.shoeburynesshigh.co.uk/page/?title=Student+Portal&pid=32>.

In order to improve communication our website also lists the contact details of key people within the school. They can be found here:

<https://www.shoeburynesshigh.co.uk/page/?title=Who+to+Contact&pid=112>

I wish you all a lovely weekend and thank you for all the support you continue to give to us; it does make a difference.

Best wishes

Clare Costello  
Headteacher

