



St Benedict's College

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18 August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer holiday and continue to keep safe and well in these most challenging times.

Like all schools we are busily preparing for the new school year. In response to ministerial guidance, issued last week, we are doing away with class bubbles and are planning for a return to normal timetable delivery for all year groups. We anticipate continued emphasis on social distancing, hand hygiene and the compulsory wearing of face masks. We are currently awaiting further guidance from the Department of Education. Once issued The Senior Leadership Team will work through it to finalise our plan for a return to school which ensures the health and safety of all members of the school community. We will endeavour to communicate definitive arrangements for your son/daughter as soon as possible.

At this point though we are planning for Year 8 Induction as follows:

YEAR 8 INDUCTION PROGRAMME 2021

Thursday 26 August 2021 9.15-12.30	Year 8 Transition Programme CAT4 Testing - (1/2 of Year Group – Surnames: A-M) Parent Meetings with Year 8 (Individual appointment times available on request)
Friday 27 August 2021 9.15-12.30	Year 8 Transition Programme CAT4 Testing - (1/2 of Year Group - Surnames: Mc-Z) Parent Meetings with Year 8 (Individual appointment times available on request)
Monday 30 August 2021	Bank Holiday – School closed
Tuesday 31 August 2021 9.15-2.00	Year 8 Induction and Fun Activities (All Year 8s – No other students on site) (Please wear full PE Uniform)
Wednesday 1 September 2021	No Year 8's on site to facilitate Year 11 & 12 Induction
Thursday 2 September 2021	No Year 8's on site to facilitate Year 9 & 10 Induction
Friday 3 September 2021 Full school day - 9.10-3.25	Year 8 School Day 1 (All Year 8s – No other students on site) (Please wear full School Uniform)
Monday 6 September 2021 Full school day - 9.10-3.25	Full School Return

Parent Meetings with Year 8 Team - Thursday 26 August or Friday 27 August 2021

If you were unable to meet a member of the Year 8 Team in June and would like to do so at this point we would invite you to contact Reception to arrange an appointment with us. It is not essential to do so but it is an opportunity to meet a member of the Year 8 Team, to ask questions and to share any concerns you may have.

Thanks to those who have completed and returned the Year 8 Enrolment Form. If you have not done so, we would ask that you do make an appointment to meet a member of the Year 8 Team and to bring it along to the meeting. To complete the enrolment process, it is important that you also bring your son/daughter's Birth Certificate (the short one will suffice). This will be photocopied and returned to you at the meeting.

All necessary health and safety and social distancing arrangements will be in place and in line with government guidance we would ask that parents wear face masks.

CAT Testing - Thursday 26 August or Friday 27 August 2021

We would like to invite your child to come to spend the morning with us on **Friday 27 August 2021 (9.15 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)**

During your child's visit they will complete a series of diagnostic tests that will provide us with an academic profile which will inform teaching and learning strategies employed with your child. The tests will be administered by Mrs Magill, Year 8 Form Teacher and Ms Woods, Head of Year 8.

School Transport is not available until Tuesday 1 September so we would respectfully ask that you make the necessary arrangements to bring your child to St. Benedict's College for **9.15 a.m.** on the morning of **Friday 27 August 2021** and collect them again from school at **12.30 p.m.** We will provide them with their break.

If the dates and times allocated for the CAT Testing do not suit you or your child, please contact Reception to make alternative arrangements but I would ask that you try to make them work for you as Induction arrangements are particularly challenging this year.

Year 8 Induction and Fun Activities - Tuesday 31 August 2021

All Year 8s are expected to attend school on Tuesday 31 August 2021 from 9.15 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. We will provide break. But parents will need to provide their child with a packed lunch and make their own transport arrangements. Ms Woods and the Year 8 Team are currently making plans for this very important and exciting day and will issue further details to your child next week.

I will send you more detailed guidance in relation to return to school and health and safety arrangements in the days ahead. In the mean-time please keep an eye out for updates on our Facebook and Twitter feeds and on the school website (www.stbenedictscollege.co.uk).

In these times of upheaval, rest assured that we look forward to welcoming your son/daughter to St. Benedict's College and remain fully committed to ensuring that they are happy, safe and successful here.

Yours sincerely

Catriona McAteer
PRINCIPAL