

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final week of the academic year, we are naturally reflecting on the last 4 months when the school has not been physically open to all students. This has been incredibly challenging for students, parents/carers and staff as we all had to adjust to a new way of learning overnight.

We have been immensely proud of our students over the last few months, many of whom have needed to develop lifelong skills such as resilience, adaptability and independence in learning. We know this has not been an easy journey, with many anxieties and worries along the way, but thankfully we can now start to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

On Thursday 2nd July it was announced that all schools will open for all year groups in September. This news was extremely well received by all staff at Eggescliffe and we are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back to school in September.

We are thrilled to know that in September we will once again be able to hear the classrooms full of students discussing their learning, dining halls buzzing with students socialising with their friends and see the school environment busy with a huge variety of extracurricular activities providing wonderful opportunities for our students. In summary, we have desperately missed our students and our school has not been the same without them in the building.

With the announcement that schools could open came a publication of 35 pages of guidance that all schools have to follow to mitigate the risks of transmission within the school environment. This publication is extensive and has significant implications for all secondary schools.

We are passionate about continuing to deliver our broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum, and maintaining our school ethos, however, this must be done with a series of measures that are needed to ensure the safety of your children, and our staff so we can reduce the risk of transmission.

Therefore, we will have to make a number of changes to how the school operates from September.

An information sheet on these changes and what they mean for your child is attached to this Parentmail.

This will also be followed next week by a **virtual whole school assembly** led by ourselves to outline to your son/daughter what measures will be in place from September. Next week we will also issue **our expectations letter** for all students which details school procedures and policies.

Staggered start to Autumn term

To re-introduce students into the school environment safely, and 'walk' them through the changes on site, we will need to stagger the start of term across three days. This will also support the new Year 7 and new Year 12 students who did not have a transition on school site in the summer term.

Students will be able to access the school site from 8.30am onwards. The staggered start is as follows:

- **Tuesday 1st September:** PD Day- staff will receive training on new procedures and measures.
- **Wednesday 2nd September** 8.55am new Year 7 and 12 ONLY
- **Thursday 3rd September** 8.55am Year 9, Year 10 and Year 13 (as well as Year 7 and 12)
- **Friday 4th September** 8.55am All years on site (first day for Year 8 and Y11)

Further details on plans for the new academic year may need to be issued over the summer holidays, if any government advice on COVID-19 measures change.

We are very much looking forward to working with our students, and their families, in September, supporting them in a return to full time school.

Kind Regards,

Mr S. White	Mrs L.Oyston
Head Teacher	Head of School
CEO VALT	