



9 October 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I am delighted to report the full return of the students to the Academy has been very successful and I am very grateful for your support and trust in sending your child back into our care at St Paul's. For information, our whole school attendance is running at 96%, whereas the national average is 88%.

It is also wonderful to see how well the students are turned out in their uniform and again I would like to thank you for your support with this. It is clear by the way students are wearing their uniform that they are proud to be part of the St Paul's community.

On my frequent walks of the school building, I see our students clearly engaged in their lessons and enjoying their learning. I have also been impressed with how they are preparing for their Assessment weeks, as well as the care they are taking of their School Planners, a very useful handbook for students, their families and staff. Students have also adapted very well to the C-19 procedures at St Paul's, taking a responsible attitude to their safety and the safety of others.

There are two issues, however, which are concerning me. Firstly, that not every child is coming to school with a filled water bottle. You will be aware that, as a C-19 preventative measure we have had to turn off the water supply to the drinking fountains. The consumption of water is key to hydrating the brain in order for it to be at its optimum for learning. Please ensure your child has a water bottle as part of their compulsory school equipment.

My second concern is the punctuality of some students. I appreciate the challenges with public transport during this pandemic, as well as the current bus diversions, but I would ask you to support your child in being on time for school so their learning is not disadvantaged.

The school gate closes promptly at 8.20am, so students must arrive in good time to avoid receiving a punctuality detention. The school gate opens at the following times each day:

Years 7 and 9: 7.45am
Years 8, 10 and 11: 8.00am

You will, of course, be informed of any changes to these times.

We held very successful Year 11 Progress Review meetings last week and next week we have the second of these meetings, this time for Year 7. We are very much looking forward to meeting with the families of Year 7, as well as the families of Years 8, 9 and 10 later this term. Details of your child's meeting will be e-mailed to you nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued support.

With every good wish,

Miss S Malone
Principal