



15 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has truly been an unprecedented year I would like to share with you some key information.

### **The end of term**

I am very grateful to all of the staff who put so much effort into ensuring that our usual end of term activities still took place even though they happened "virtually". Many thanks to our PE department for virtual sports day and Sports Awards Evening, our Music department for the online Summer Soiree and to our Heads of Year for the virtual Celebrations of Achievement.

We were very fortunate to be selected by The One Show to be their school for the One Big Prom. This was very exciting for those that took part. If you missed the episode please see the following link.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000kk5s/the-one-show-02072020>

Please take a look at our @Gryphon newsletter that has just been published on the school website it is amazing to read about how much has still been able to happen during "lockdown"!

<https://www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk/news/summer-newsletter-2020-the-lockdown-edition/>

This has been a challenging term for staff, students and families and I am very grateful for the support that you, as parent and carers, have shown to the school.

### **Arrangements for September and changes to the length of the school day**

I hope that you have had the chance to review the short video explaining our new arrangements for September. If you missed the email with the link it is:

<https://media.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk/View.aspx?id=6808~4w~y0CuoFiB&code=AD~V9teGuqCmeyAzhd2NZAzHQW2vAXI98c6mbjCwIH0z4VriNeFFxeKgS&ax=6P~g3WbSqEvDMW>

Our new students in Y7 and Y12 will join us for induction activities during our INSET day on Friday September 4<sup>th</sup>; the school reopens fully to all year groups on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Further details on the first day back will follow at the beginning of September before school reopens on the 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Uniform

We will return to school in full uniform for Y7 – 11 in September. There are very clear guidelines on our website concerning school uniform and the standard items that need to be worn. Please support us by ensuring that your son / daughter leaves home for school every morning in the correct uniform and with the basic equipment needed for the school day. We really want to enable our staff to concentrate on teaching and learning next term so avoiding “discussions” about uniform would be very helpful in enabling us to achieve this!

## BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

As you know we are a BYOD school and we work with our young people to ensure that they use their devices in school appropriately. The vast majority of our students make excellent use of their devices and they are a very useful tool for learning. However, if devices are being misused we reserve the right to confiscate them or to arrange with parents or carers for the devices to be held in the office during the school day or in extreme cases to ban the student from bringing in his/her device. If you need to contact your child during the school day in the first instance please do so via the student hub; we have had a couple of occasions where parents have rung their child’s mobile phone during a lesson – as you can imagine that is very disruptive to the young person and to the class as a whole.

## Goodbyes

The end of the Summer Term is always particularly poignant as we say farewell to staff. Mrs Ramsbottom is retiring after 10 years working in our SEND and Pastoral Teams in a variety of roles, Miss Wilshire has gained a promotion to be Head of Music at Holyrood School in Chard, Mrs Kelley has also gained a promotion to be second in English at Castle School in Taunton, Mr Gent is going to be a Housemaster at Sherborne Girls’, Miss Watson, Miss Bull, Mrs Bakewell and Mr Callis are leaving us to explore other opportunities. We send them every good wish in their life after Gryphon!

## Special Thank You to Mr Fox

Mr Fox is stepping down from his Head of Year role at the end of term after 20 years in the post. The role of Head of Year is extremely demanding and to have carried out for that length of time is incredible! Many thanks Mr Fox, enjoy a slightly more relaxed time in September!

We are always very happy to know your thoughts on how we could improve as a school. Please do not hesitate to let us know, or come in to see us, if you have any concerns.

I hope that you have a very enjoyable summer holiday. Please spare a thought for the students and staff anxiously awaiting results on August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to welcoming our students back in reality in September – the school has felt too empty for too long!



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In case you're wondering what I'll be up to here's a little clue!



With kind regards

Nicki Edwards  
Headteacher

