

MJC/jr
26 March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I just wanted to update you on a few things we have been up to since returning to school to support the students settling back in.

We have had a heavy focus on wellbeing in tutor time periods which have seen discussions take place around reflecting on lockdown, how to settle back in, routines and where to go if you have concerns.

We have had good use of the Wellbeing postbox where students have let us know how they are feeling and we have responded with individual and group interventions.

Our school Counsellor and ELSA team have been busy with existing and new student referrals and they have been providing support in the Learning Hub.

We have also been working hard with external agencies to support students with some of their experiences of lockdown that have meant it has been a challenge to return or students who have had family trauma, it has been great to be able to call upon support in this way in the community.

Students on the whole have settled back in well, however we are having to do some work around resolving differences with some groups as a result of unkindness that may have taken place online over lockdown or since returning.

We will always work hard to resolve bullying behaviours and try to resolve disputes between students so that the outcomes are best for all. It is important that we are made aware of issues that may have taken place with regards to bullying or when friends fall out and it causes upset, often we are not made aware until too late that something has taken place. The sooner we know the sooner we can support. Please talk to your child about communicating with someone if they are worried or have fallen out with a friend.

We have had a couple of incidents in the community recently that have involved people not associated with school causing issues with some of our students. We would like to thank members of the community who have taken the time to contact school directly to make us aware. We can only deal with these rare incidents swiftly if we are informed directly rather than being made aware due to social media outlets, so if you have a concern or feel we need to know something, please get in touch.

We are aware that it has been tricky for some families returning to school and it is inevitable that after so much time together in the home that you may feel the need to call and check in with your children whilst they are here at school. We are experiencing an increase in parents calling their children in school or asking them to call home. If you urgently need to get a message to your

child, please call through the school Reception who can help but please avoid calling your child directly on their phone as this causes issues in school. Also encourage your child to talk to their tutor, to Student Services or any adult in school if they are upset, feeling anxious or worried. If we feel it is necessary that they need to contact you we can support that from school, rather than them getting into trouble for using their phone in school hours.

I just want to finish by saying thank you for all the support you have given us in preparing your children to return to school, it has been fabulous seeing them back in lessons learning and seeing them getting back into their routines.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Chance
Deputy Headteacher