



02 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

In this letter: Return to school next week  
Expectations/Changes for September  
Reminders for September

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and your child/ren are very much looking forward to returning to school next week. For those families joining us in Year 7, a very warm welcome to you.

The beginning of term has arrived and our site has been further improved during the break, with classrooms and faculty areas looking better than ever - there will be a few surprises. Both GCSE and A Level results were a huge success with many happy students looking forward to the next step on their journey.

### **When is my child returning to school?**

The return to school next week will be staggered as per the details below. Our school day and full [term dates](#) for next year are available on our website.

Date of Return	Year group to return	Time
Monday 5 September	<b>7,11,12 and 13 only</b> Photographs for Year 7,12,13	<b>Through the gates by 8:30</b>
Tuesday 6 September	<b>All year groups 7-13</b>	

The school will welcome over 1000 students next week. Please see our leaflet attached to the bottom of this letter to understand our car park expectations and how we can all work together to keep the drop off and pick up as safe and smooth as possible for all.

### **Where does my child go on their first day back?**

All students should arrive onsite by 8:30 and walk to their house area where they will be welcomed by their Head of House and Tutor. Sixth Form students should walk to the Sixth Form block.

### **Changes for September**

- Let's Go Zero - **all children are required to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day.** We recognise we must do more to improve sustainability and we are creating new 'hydration zones' in the school. The 'sustainability machines' (juice with water) have been running in term 6 and we will be doubling the capacity of both chilled water dispensers and sustainability machines. Our Eco Group founders are passionate about this change and this follows feedback from our community. We will be phasing out the use of plastic cups, straws and drink cartons during Term 1, once the new machines are installed (supply chain delays!). Students can bring their own or share their design with the DAT department and students will have a personalised water bottle with their name on it! All details are included in our [weekly communication](#) from the end of last term..

- **Years 7, 8 and 11 will share the first lunch** from 12.20 to 12.55. Year 9 and 10 will share the second lunch from 13.20 to 13.55.
- **We expect all children to be through the gates by 8.30am** to allow them to be registered promptly at 8.35 am. We teach children the importance of punctuality to support them as they move into the world of work and because being punctual is a sign of respect, one of our core values.
- **Homework Club - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 3:00 - 4:00**
- **Students are encouraged to bring a small pair of headphones with them for use with Chromebooks in the classroom and cover hub.**

#### **'Mobile Phone free' school - 'not seen or heard'**

**If a phone is seen (whether in a student's hand, pocket or otherwise) it will be confiscated and returned the following school day.** We recognise mobile phones and social media can cause social disagreement and anxieties amongst teenagers. We have seen an increase in the number of mobile phones visible on the site over recent months and wish to send a clear message to all students that all mobile phones must not be seen or heard. If a student is repeatedly seen with a mobile phone on the school site, the confiscation period will be extended. Thank you for your support in helping your child/ren understand our expectations along with the consequences of their phone being seen or heard. **We expect parents/carers to contact reception should you need to pass a message to your child/ren during the school day.**

#### **Reminders for September**

- **Uniform - wear it with pride - All children must have their shirts tucked in and ties worn on the top button.** We will be reinforcing these standards from September and will be issuing lunchtime detentions for those that choose not to wear uniform correctly.
- **All children must wear black, polishable shoes (not trainers). To confirm, Nike Air Force 1s are trainers and are not permitted.** Any child who arrives in school in incorrect footwear will be asked to change into a pair of shoes from our school stock.
- **We do not allow facial piercings in school.** Children may wear one plain stud in each ear. If your child chose to have a facial piercing over the summer holiday it will need to be removed for the return to school. We also ask that children do not wear jewellery to school other than a single flat ring on each hand and a single plain necklace. **False nails and nail extensions are not permitted and children will be asked to remove them.**

#### **What support is available for purchasing the uniform?**

Any child in receipt of the Pupil Premium receives an automatic discount on all items of uniform. To obtain this, you must order your uniform via [sso@skdrive.org](mailto:sso@skdrive.org). We have some pre-loved uniform available directly from school which can be accessed through the email above. Should you have any concerns around purchasing any item of uniform, please contact your child's Head of House for support.

**Equipment:** all students should arrive at school properly equipped and ready to learn. Please ensure that your child has the following equipment with them on all days:

- Black pens
- Green pens
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Coloured pencils
- Ruler (30 cm)
- Protractor
- Glue stick
- Pencil case
- Planner (supplied through school)

- Reading book
- Scientific calculator (the [Aurora Dot Matrix scientific calculator](#) is the best value that we are aware of and is available online).
- Hand sanitiser (optional but highly recommended)
- Water bottle
- Small pair of headphones

During September there will be Virtual Information Evenings as detailed below to highlight our curriculum, important systems and an opportunity to clarify any questions.

**Year 7 Parent/Carer Virtual Information Evening at 18:00-19:00 on Wednesday 7 September**

Online presentation on Zoom [click here](#)

**Sixth form Parent/Carer Virtual Information Evening at 1800-1900 on Tuesday 13 September**

Online presentation on Zoom [click here](#)

**Y8-11 Parent/Carer Virtual Information Evening at 1800-1900 on Wednesday 21 September**

Online presentation on Zoom [click here](#)

We trust this information is useful and clarifies some of the questions you may have. Inevitably there will be further questions and we ask you to contact us at [school@skdrive.org](mailto:school@skdrive.org).

Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming all our students through the gates next week.

Yours sincerely



Justin Humphreys  
**Headteacher**



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 St Katherine's School  @stkathsschool

## Keeping Children Safe in the Car Park

<b>8 coaches</b>	<b>100 cars</b>		
<b>1000 students</b>	<b>cars</b>		

From Sept 2022:

- Strict 5 mph speed limit on site
- One way through the car park
- Priority as follows:
  - Pedestrians
  - Coaches/Minibuses
  - Cars
- Follow directions from any member of staff in HiViz clothing
- When stopped in the car park engines should be turned off.



### AM Drop off

- Coaches arrive between 8:15 and 8:25. Try and avoid these times if dropping off by car.
- Please do not stop in any red zone on the map.
- Follow directions from staff to the amber zones: upper car park or the bus lane, moving as far down the bus lane as possible to leave room for others behind.
- If you need to take your time dropping off your child/ren please find a parking space in the green zones.

### PM Pick up

- Coaches will be scheduled to depart at 5 minutes past the hour. Collection by car after this time will be easier.
- **No stopping in any red or amber zones when coaches are present on the site.** Park in the green zones.
- When 8 coaches are on site, all through traffic will be via the top car park.