



August 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Re: Start of autumn term 2023-24 – arrangements and expectations

I hope that everyone has managed to have a restful period at some point over the summer holidays and an enjoyable time together as a family. As no doubt your thoughts are starting to turn towards returning to school, I wanted to write and highlight some updates, some key information and routines reminders.

Building updates

It's been a very busy summer with a tight timetable of upgrades to key spaces within the school. If you've driven past us, I'm sure you will have seen much of that underway! This has included a complete refurbishment of our 'New Building', which will include a new toilet block and a lift so that the building is fully accessible – something that we've been pushing to achieve for some time. We've seen the creation of a new pastoral base which will mean that our new ARC (Alternative Reflection Classroom) and Bridge room (a space for smaller, bespoke class teaching) along with our pastoral staff, will all be housed together. Equally, we have redesigned our Chapel space too. Furthermore, we are in the process of relaying our Astro turf pitch which we know the wider community will benefit from, alongside students in school. Most of this work will be fully completed by the time students return, and so we are looking forward to parents and students seeing these developments over the coming weeks.

Start of term

Date	Students returning
Thursday 24 and Friday 25 August	Staff training
Monday 28 August	Bank holiday
Tuesday 29 August	Year 7 and year 11 students return to school
Wednesday 30 August	All students return to school

Start of the day

Students should assemble for 8.30am in designated areas, as detailed below. Staff will be on hand on Tuesday 29 August to direct new year 7 students to the correct assembly point.

Year	Assembly point
7	Assemble in the square (enter via the PE gate)
8	Assemble on the Astro turf (enter via the Astro turf emergency gates)
9	Assemble on the Astro turf (enter via the Astro turf emergency gates)
10	Assemble on the netball court (MUGA)
11	Assemble on the netball court (MUGA)



Car park

As always, where possible we would encourage you to drop off and collect your child away from the school site, but please park considerately and avoid blocking driveways and entrances for those who live in close proximity to the school. If you do need to enter the car park, please ensure that you drive carefully, park in a designated space and follow the one-way system.

Lockers

Locker payments will be added to year 7 ParentPay accounts on 1 September. Please can parents and carers of year 7 students make payment via ParentPay **before Monday 11 September**. Lockers will be allocated to all students during the first week of term. Any student eligible for opportunities funding through the Pupil Premium will receive a locker free of charge.

Break and lunch

Year 7 students will be given their ID cards during their first few days in school; existing students should ensure that they bring their card with them when they return to school. Replacement cards can be purchased via ParentPay.

Please ensure that your child's catering account is topped up, from home via ParentPay, in advance of them buying food. It is essential that students bring their card to school with them every day in order to buy food at break and lunch times. The Astro turf will be available during some lunchtimes for access to play football only. In order to access and take part in a game, students will require shin pads and suitable footwear.

Pastoral support

You child's form tutor should be your first point of contact for all enquiries and you will be informed of their individual email address. The work of our tutors is overseen by the heads of year and pastoral managers. Details of the pastoral staff members associated with each year group are below.

Year	Head of year	Pastoral manager
7	Mr R Tilley	Mr S Coombs
8	Mrs C Wheeler	Mr L King
9	Mr J Stewardson	Mr T Smith
10	Mr J Marsden	Mrs G Heath
11	Mr T Clark	Mrs H Underwood

Changes to our routines

As many parents will be aware from the various information evenings we have held, and through our ongoing communication, we have been working hard to bring simplicity and clarity when approaching our routines and expectations so that for staff this is easy to administer, and for students and parents to understand. At the end of last year we held an update evening for all parents to attend whereby we outlined changes and progress we were making upon our aims set out at the start of the year, and following our Ofsted inspection. At that meeting we spoke about the ongoing changes we are making to simplify procedures when handling rare occasions when students might disrupt the learning of other students.

Through working with other schools and understanding how they operate more straightforward systems, and by consulting with some parents, as well as with staff, we will be using a more straightforward process. This will simply be that if a student repeatedly disrupts the learning of other students within a lesson and, having had opportunity to address their behaviour, they will be sent to the ARC where they will spend the next 5 lessons (and any breaks and lunch times) completing their lesson work. This is in order that they can reflect on their choices, understand how they should behave when returning to lessons, and ensure that those whose learning has been disturbed, can continue without further disruption. This will also apply should there be any disruption that occurs on a corridor too.

Additionally, in response to feedback, we will also be removing the complicated system of detentions. Instead, there will only be 1 detention issuable which will be 40 minutes in length.

We intend that by simplifying our systems in this way, our routines will be easier for all to follow going forwards.

College uniform

As members of staff at the college, we do not wish to waste any learning time through discussions with students about non-school uniform items. However, we will insist that uniform standards are high and will require all students to adhere to the school uniform policy as highlighted on the college website. Thank you for your support with this.

Mobile phones

Students may bring a mobile phone to school, but this is at their own risk. Students must ensure that mobile phones remain in lockers throughout the school day. If a mobile phone is seen during school hours, it will be confiscated and parents/carers will have to collect it from the school office.

Equipment

The following items are the minimum required for daily use. Indeed, students will be required to have specialist equipment for certain subjects, particularly in years 9, 10 and 11.

- pencil case
- pens
- pencils
- ruler
- rubber
- coloured pencils
- scientific calculator
- glue stick
- maths set (protractor, compasses)
- set of unbranded ear buds for use with computers/keyboards.

Dates for your diary

Whilst the full calendar can be found on the school website, we have a number of events planned for the first half term and thought it would be useful to highlight these below.

'The year ahead' evenings

These evenings are a new addition and are in response to the parent survey carried out a few months ago. The aim of these evenings is to provide an overview of the year ahead and give guidance as to how parents and carers can support their children. Year 7 parents/carers will already have had this information as part of the July transition meeting.

Year	Year ahead evening
11	Monday 4 September 6pm-7pm
7	Wednesday 6 September 6pm-7pm
10	Thursday 7 September 6pm-7pm
9	Monday 11 September 6pm-7pm
8	Thursday 14 September 6pm-7pm

Archbishop of York Young Leaders' Award presentation evening

We are very proud of our year 8 students who have completed the Archbishop of York Young Leaders' Award over the past 12 months. This work was undertaken within RS lessons and form time and through students' tremendous efforts at home. On average, a staggering 80% of our students have achieved this award. In order to celebrate this achievement, we will, by separate letter, be inviting the students and parents/carers to a presentation evening whereby we will showcase the work completed and present certificates to the students.

Year	Presentation evening
8	Tuesday 10 October 6pm-7pm

Post-16 information evening - Thursday 5 October 5pm-7pm

Open to year 10 and year 11 students and parents/carers, this event will provide an opportunity to speak to an array of post-16 providers, employers and universities and encourage students to start to think about their next steps after they leave Brockington College. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

Year 7 settling in evening - Thursday 12 October

An opportunity for year 7 parents/carers to discuss the first half term at Brockington College with their child's form tutor. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the college. I hope that you are able to enjoy the rest of the summer break and very much look forward to working with you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Sadie Batstone
Principal