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21 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this last letter of communication for this half term finds you all safe and healthy.

I want to start by thanking everyone involved with Cottingham High School for their support in trying their very best to keep our school safe for all. A special mention has to go to our staff and students who have had to adapt to new systems and expectations, as well as having to still think about all the usual things that take place within a school. Their efforts and cooperation to 'make it work' have made me extremely proud to lead the school through these extraordinary times.

We have reviewed this half term's work and are going to make some changes that will hopefully further improve our next term's work.

Timings of the school day.

Tutor	P1	Morning break	P2	P3	Lunch	P4	P5
8.50 am 9.10am	9.10am - 10.10am	10.10am - 10.30am	10.30am - 11.30am	11.30am - 12.30pm	12.30pm - 13.00pm	13.00pm - 14.00pm	14.00pm - 15.00pm
Students not to arrive at school before 8.30am and be in their tutor groups by 8.50am at the latest.		(break extended by 5 minutes to give staff more travelling time from zone to zone.)			(Lunch will finish early to allow an early finish to the school day.)		(Y9 will still leave at 14.50pm to enable them to catch the early bus from the Lawns, but the early finish means they will only miss 10 mins education. Y7 will finish at 14.55pm. These early finishes help stagger the end of the school day to avoid the mixing of bubbles.)



Changes to zones.

Year 9 will have access to a different zone of the school next half term, allowing them greater access to some of our Technology and Performing Arts facilities. This will enable them to gain a greater insight into the different activities and subjects on offer, before they select their KS4 option choices in the spring term. Their entrance to the school will thus be via the top gate to access the Technology and Performing Arts blocks. The drop off area for Year 9, 11, 12 and 13 students is the bus loop.

Y8 will be based in the Humanities area of the school and their entrance to the school will now be via the main gate. The drop off area for Y7, Y8 and Y10 students is the sixth form car park accessible via the main gate.

Y12 and Y13 will use the Maths block for their lessons.

On Monday 2nd November period one will be dedicated to showing Y8, 9, 12 and 13 students around their new zone and all students will be reminded of our health and safety, behaviour and academic expectations for the next half term. Please continue to support us in ensuring that your daughter/son wears the correct uniform to school every day. As a reminder, students may wear black joggers or leggings and their black school jumper or PE hoodie in addition to their PE kit.

Equipment and face-coverings

Thank you to all parents/carers for your support with equipping students with face-coverings each day. This is obviously a key measure in keeping everyone safe as we move around the school and students have quickly adapted to the new routine. If your son/daughter has been supplied with a face-covering by the school, please support us by making the payment via the school gateway app. This will allow us to keep equipping students on the rare occasion they forget. It would also help us greatly if students could be encouraged to keep a spare face-covering in their bag, reducing the demand to supply spares each day.

Accessing home-learning if self-isolating

If your child is advised to self-isolate from school for an extended period, work will be set on our online learning platform, Microsoft Teams. If a year group bubble is sent home, or the school is required to close, learning materials and virtual lessons will be hosted for each class on this platform. The software can be downloaded for free from the App store or Microsoft website.

Please note that due to upgrades to our service over the summer, if your child used Teams before July, they will need to log out of Teams and log back in through the school website, by using the email icon on the school website <https://www.cottinghamhigh.net/> and entering their school username and password when prompted. If your child hasn't already accessed Teams from home, using a computer, laptop or personal device such as a phone or tablet, they should do now and if they have problems to inform their form tutor.

If your child doesn't have access to any of the devices above, the school may be able to loan one to eligible families

A guide on accessing Teams from a computer or tablet is shown on the links below:

Y8-13 guide

https://consortiumtrust-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/person/wardle_a_cottinghamhigh_net/EUO-E0AX8D9DnRC7b9qTdUgB0DfyWowlPhfldWmOlzRh9A?e=gjoCN9

Y7 guide

https://consortiumtrust-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/person/wardle_a_cottinghamhigh_net/ER39fO71r3jOtrEx7lJ2OYwBgxUDFjdbLKTA-EifxRofFvg?e=Sjx1WN



Well-being support

Supporting students' emotional health and wellbeing has always been at the forefront of our pastoral package; we realise now more than ever that this offer is vital in providing students with the care that they may require. We have put a diverse package of support in place, including the appointment of a dedicated in-school counsellor to ensure we have the resources to effectively support and advise students during this difficult time. Please do contact your child's Head of Year if you are concerned about her or his wellbeing.

And finally,

"Losing your head in a crisis is a good way to become the crisis." — C.J. Redwine.

I once again, thank you for your positive comments and encouragement this half term; these go a long way in supporting us with our work and keeping us focused on what makes the difference and really matters.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely

Loz Wilson
Headteacher

