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Our ref: MF/VCL

20th July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a long and fruitful year for us here at QE. It started in September when we officially changed the name back to Queen Elizabeth High School and then in late October when our long awaited re-inspection by Ofsted took place, moving the school rightly back to 'Good' in all categories.

The months that have taken us to this point always seem to fly past, it is when Year 11 finally leave that the clear signs of the year coming to close become evident. And so a much needed rest for all involved before we power on to the start of another academic year.

Every year sees change in a school, as well as students arriving and departing, inevitably some staff do so as well. We say goodbye today to Mr Lowe-Werrell, Deputy Headteacher for 4 years' service and Mr Jones Faculty Leader for Science and Technology who has been at QE for a decade. Mr Lowe-Werrell has successfully achieved his qualification for Headship and secured the post of Headteacher at Mary Webb School in Pontesbury, Shropshire. Mr Jones is returning to South Wales to teach in the school he attended as a student. They will both be missed and we wish them the very best as they move on to their new posts.

I am proud of what we have achieved in our small school, it is not without its ups and downs but that is the nature of any school or indeed any organisation where so many are brought together. Our small size means that for the most part we know our students well and do right by them.

Some changes that will be coming in from September are worthy of communication to you now. Firstly, as always, if any student is intending to have hair dyed a colour not normally accepted by school, any nose piercings or other such adornments, please be aware that upon our return to school the expectation would be that these can be removed, therefore, it is sensible to have any such modifications done at the start of the six week break. It is a good time for me to clarify what we are asking for in respect of this. We listened to students and have made some small adjustments as follows:

- Multiple earrings to a maximum of 5 per ear can be worn as long as they are all single studs and have a head no larger than 5mm (would fit through a hole punch). Bars and spacers are still not permitted
- Students may wear one ring in each ear, however, this must not have any space between the ring and the ear and must "hug" the ear so that health and safety is maintained
- Nose studs are not permitted, however, students are now permitted to wear a clear acrylic nose stud as long as the head is very small. No normal nose studs are allowed. Clear acrylic nose retainers are readily available through ebay or amazon
- Tongue piercings are not permitted within school. If a student has a tongue piercing this must be removed whilst they are on school site, this applies similarly to belly piercings or other piercings not covered above
- Temporary tattoos and hair colours must not be visible at school

We have made some changes to uniform also but primarily these apply to new Year 7 only.

Girls now have a branded skirt, either pleated or not. New female students will need to purchase the new skirt via the uniform shop. For existing students, you may continue to wear your old skirts until such time that you replace them or you persistently contravene the school uniform policy, so please wear appropriate skirts of an appropriate length or purchase new ones from the uniform shop <https://www.schooluniformshop.co.uk/section.php/257/1/queen-elizabeth-high-school>

We have also introduced a school jumper which is optional, again available from the uniform shop. Students may wear the jumper with their blazer, however it is not a blazer replacement. Boys will have the opportunity from Easter each year to wear branded shorts should they wish, again available from the uniform shop. This only applies to Summer Term unless the school deems the weather to be warmer than expected in which case the early use of summer uniform will be permitted.

With respect to new QE sports kit, new students will be required to obtain the new kit <http://www.macronstoregloucester.com/shop/club-shops/queen-elizabeth-high-school/> Existing students are only required to purchase new kit if they are replacing items. We are sure that this approach means we are not placing an undue financial burden on families whilst maintaining all of the positive aspects having correct school uniform affords. Without doubt, our students are amongst the smartest looking students in the whole of Herefordshire and for the large part they wear it correctly and with pride.

Another major change for next year is looking at target grades. We have conducted a review of target setting policy and have decided to review all target grades for students currently in years 7-9. Students will be given a new Minimum Expected Grade (MEG) which will become their new target grade, additionally they will each receive a Student Challenge Grade (SCG) which they should push themselves to achieve. This change will ensure that students are more motivated in respect of their targets and see the benefit to pushing themselves beyond that which is normally expected. For students in current year 10, their targets will remain set as they were.

We have an exciting year ahead with new options subjects in vocational areas such as construction and motor vehicles. We are keen as well over the next 12 months to pursue some courses in small animal care and other areas that are wholly relevant to our students, more news to follow.

The summer will see a few room changes and modifications, so that when students return in September we will have a Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance room where students can work with our Independent Careers Adviser Mr Lush as to their future progression pathways.

A reminder to those who have not completed the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Compliance Consent booklet. Please ensure this is completed and returned to school with your child on their return in September.

There will also be some exciting news about how we are working with our primary school partners which will be sharing with you all next term.

So, I wish you all an enjoyable summer break, please be safe and well and we shall see students on their return, Tuesday September 4th at 8.40am.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Farmer
Headteacher