



6 September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

A very warm, literally as well as metaphorically, welcome to the new school year. This letter includes an update on the school site as well as a very important message in relation to attendance.

### School site

I have written to you a couple of times during the summer, updating you on our progress with the many building works taking place. While I was a little nervous two weeks ago that we were going to struggle to get everything completed, I am pleased to inform you that all areas of the school are fully open and in use. Photos of the developments are included below.

When students return, they will notice we have:

- A new floor in the picnic area of A block
- A newly sanded floor in the Gym
- Refurbished classrooms upstairs in A block
- Refurbished every one of the Languages classrooms, installing modern technology to facilitate further developments in teaching and learning
- Redecorated 3 of the English classrooms
- Installed a new ceiling in the library to make it brighter

In addition, we have a new catering company who have overhauled our food service. The staff have experienced this over the last two days, and I know the students will be pleased with the changes.

New Maths Corridor



New Math Classroom



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## New Languages Classroom



## New Canteen



## **The importance of good attendance**

This morning, as part of the regular national Department for Education bulletins, I received a communication asking all Headteachers to share the following with parents / carers.

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

The impact of COVID is still felt in schools with student absence double what it was before the pandemic.

Absence has a direct impact on learning and the progress students make. While we celebrated excellent results in our GCSE's last year, with a significant rise in the proportion of students achieving both English and Maths at grade 4 and grade 5, there remains a stark difference in the proportion gaining these grades when they are compared to attendance figures. Less than 1 in 3 students with an attendance less than 80% will achieve good grades in English and Maths.

As the advice above explains, a cold, or other minor illnesses are not a reason to keep your child off school. We want to work with our families to ensure all our students are attending school as much as possible.

Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start today and have completed a session with their tutors as well as a tour of the site. We look forward to welcoming Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Frazer', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Frazer  
Principal