



DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Dear Parent/Carer

Preparations for the return of students have continued this week and we are really looking forward to seeing Year 7 tomorrow for their first day at Darrick Wood School. We will also be warmly welcoming Year 12 enrolling for the Sixth Form. Year 12 students should note that the venue for enrolment has changed and is now in the Sixth Form Centre.

Further to my communication earlier today regarding face coverings I am writing to you to provide reminders and further details about the return to school. Please find below two links, one to the email sent earlier this summer and another to the email sent 26th August which give details regarding the return to school:

[13th July Head Teacher update](#)

[26th August Head Teacher update](#)

PE kit

We have reviewed our plans for PE lessons and will now be expecting all students to attend school in Darrick Wood PE kit when they have PE or Dance. We apologise for the late notice. This decision has been taken having reviewed the situation and guidance over the summer and will remove the time students spend in changing rooms. Students must wear the kit they usually wear to PE and Dance lessons (i.e. Darrick Wood PE t-shirt or rugby shirt, Darrick Wood shorts and socks). Students may also wear the Darrick Wood tracksuit bottoms. Due to the short notice of this change we will also allow plain (black if possible) alternatives to the tracksuit bottoms. Darrick Wood leggings may also be worn, but not alternatives as we have generally found these not to be appropriate for a school setting. Other items that are not on the Darrick Wood PE kit list must not be worn. However, items of school uniform can be worn over PE kit on cold days (e.g. school blazer, cardigan or jumper) and of course a school permitted coat.

Please note that students who study GCSE or A-level PE and have a theory lesson must remain in school uniform / Sixth Form dress code as normal.

Years 8-11 will be involved in activities that revolve around fitness, avoiding full contact sports initially. Year 7 will also be avoiding full contact sports whilst participating in their baseline assessments.

In accordance with government guidance, as many lessons as possible will be outdoors.

Remote Learning and Homework

We have continued with our plans to enhance remote learning. From Monday, 7th September 2020 all Darrick Wood students will commence learning – either in school or remotely. Due to the staggered reintroduction to school over the forthcoming days, those not physically in school will be set remote learning. Microsoft Teams will be used to set remote learning, and in general the work will be set the day before, or on the day, of each lesson. As a result, most students in years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will have five lessons of learning set per day, and students in the Sixth Form will have learning set for each lesson they would normally have. Staff will use the home learning to help support students to successfully engage with learning when they return to school and will use the home learning to inform their planning of future lessons so it is vital students engage with this work.

The home learning set on Teams is set as an 'assignment'. Teams can be accessed at <https://portal.office.com>. The School has prepared a suite of training videos that show students how to use Microsoft Teams including accessing assignments and submitting work online. The links to these videos will be sent to your child's school email account. As ever, if your child has any difficulty accessing their account, then please contact the School at help@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk and we will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Work will no longer be set on Bromcom. We have decided to make this change having listened to students, parents and staff during the lockdown period and over the summer have been preparing the system and training materials.

From the beginning of this academic year, homework will also be set on Microsoft Teams and not on Bromcom. Please ask your child to log into their school account at <https://portal.office.com> to view assignments that they have been set for homework. We are aiming for the majority of homework to be completed online and be submitted online. Unfortunately, at present, there is no parent portal available for Microsoft Teams, but the platform makes it far easier for teachers to track students' engagement with homework and their progress over time. It also allows for timely feedback on some forms of assessment, and teacher-led feedback on others.

We are preparing further information to be shared with you tomorrow that we think will help you prepare your child for their return to the School site. We will be spending much of tomorrow helping Year 7 adjust to their new environment.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey
Head Teacher