



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Re: Year 12 Welcome and Update

September 2021

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

Welcome to academic year 2021/21

I wanted to formally introduce myself as your son/daughter's Head of Year for the next 2 years. My key role will be to provide pastoral support and advice to your son/daughter during the next critical two years of their life; I am immensely looking forward to working with the new cohort.

It has been a very different and challenging 18 months and I thank you for your patience as we look to integrate your son/daughter into our 6th Form community. I felt it was important to provide you with an update pertaining to crucial information:

Year 12 Information Evening: Tuesday 14th September

Pre-COVID, we hosted a 'Year 12 Parents' Information Evening in the School Theatre, this evening covers all the important information, we feel, that you as parent(s)/carer(s) need in the coming 12 months to support your son/daughter. It also provides us with the opportunity to meet new parents/carers in person. This event was scheduled for this coming Tuesday at 7:30pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic, and out of an abundance of caution for public health, the presentation to be delivered will now be recorded and you will be sent a YouTube link through, later next week, so that you can view the presentation at your leisure at home. I would envisage that the presentation will be available from the middle of next week – so please keep an eye on your emails. Due to the number of changes that have taken place this year, we recommend that all parent(s)/carer(s) watch the presentation. It will cover almost everything you need to know about this academic year. If you have any questions, the presentation will explain how you can get in touch.

Stubbers: Next Wednesday

A key activity that usually takes place every September, is the annual Year 12 visit to Stubbers Outdoor Adventure Centre. A reminder that we have sent letters home regarding payment (£40) as well as an enhanced consent form. Can I please ask all families who are yet to pay/consent to do so this weekend? As you will appreciate taking 250 people away takes a huge amount of logistical planning and this is made very challenging when families leave it until the last minute.

Switching A Level Subjects

If your son/daughter wishes to consider switching one of their A level choices, then it is important that I make you aware that there is a very limited window of opportunity to do this. We have spoken to your son/daughter about this, but it is important that I make you aware. We will only allow students to switch A Level courses in the next 3 weeks due to the significant curriculum content that will have missed after this point. Once this point has passed your son/daughter will continue on their A level programmes of study for the next 18 months

The School Day / Learning Zone Periods



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Whilst this will be covered on the Information Evening presentation, I thought it would be useful to reiterate some of the key points:

- Your son/daughter should attend school at 8:35am every day
- School finishes at 3:15pm four days a week, with a later finish of 4:15pm on a Wednesday
- At times, when your son/daughter does not have a lesson they should be making use of the extensive facilities within the 6th Form Centre; Learning Zone, Study Space R16/R17, the Common Room, the School Library
- Your son/daughter will have an additional six 'Scheduled Study/Assessment Period' slots on their timetable. These 'lessons' are when your son/daughter needs to attend our 6th Form Learning Zone for supervised study. This is a crucial feature of 6th Form life.
- Later next week, we will be in a position to start to permit your son/daughter to 'sign out'. This operates as follows:
 - Your son/daughter cannot 'sign out' until 12:15pm
 - At this point, (after 12:15pm) they may leave the School site permanently for the day if they have no further lessons
 - Alternatively, they may leave the site to go into Upminster to purchase food/drink and return for later lessons (e.g. Period 5)
- It is important that I reiterate that the ability to 'sign out' is a privilege not a 'right' and it is crucial that your son/daughter follows our Fire Regulations by both signing out/in. Also, it is important to remind you that your son/daughter is representing our community and should behave impeccably in the local area. I am sure your /daughter will thrive with this added flexibility and responsibility.

CATS Tests:

Earlier this week, your son/daughter completed a series of 'Cognitive Ability Tests' known as CAT tests. These tests enable us as a school to 'baseline' all of the students in Year 12 and provide teaching staff with additional information about your son/daughter, in addition to the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) they received for GCSE. We will produce a 'Parent Report' of your son/daughter's individual CAT test which you can access via their Go for School's page; we will write to you when this goes live. This report, which is summative in nature, will provide you with a broad perspective of their strengths and possible ways that you can support them with their learning over the next 2 years. The report is 'comparative' in that it compares how your son/daughter performed in the test, to a national benchmark. Please do not be concerned if you feel your son/daughter did not perform at a high level in the CAT test – students have been out of school for many months and we would expect the data to be lower than in previous comparative years. The test results are there to aid your son/daughter's teachers as they plan their learning over the next 18 months and are used for no other purpose.

COVID management:

I am sure by now you are very well versed in the situation nationally with COVID-19. The school continues to operate a 'system of controls' to mitigate the risk to all members of our community. However, it is important that I remind you:



1536



1701

THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: info@cooperscoborn.org.uk | Website: www.cooperscoborn.org.uk |

Please do not send your son/daughter to school if they are presenting with one of the three symptoms, as defined on the NHS website:

- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of taste/smell
- A high temperature

Instead, they should self-isolate and as they are symptomatic they should take a PCR test and not return to school until they receive a negative result.

It goes without saying, that if your son/daughter displays any of these symptoms whilst in school, then we will obviously have to send them home. I know this is very frustrating, but I am sure you understand why.

I would also like to remind all parents/carers of the recommendation from the government that students continue to self-test of a twice-weekly basis, using the Lateral Flow Device (LFD).

Once again, it is a huge pleasure to be working with your son/daughter and we can only hope that this academic year is a return to normalcy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Marshall
Head of Year 12

Mr R Bell
Deputy Head