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# 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](mailto:info@cooperscoborn.org.uk) | Website: [www.cooperscoborn.org.uk](http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk) |

**Re: Year 13 Welcome and Update**

**September 2021**

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

Welcome to academic year 2021/22!

We have been excited to see Year 13 return to school and it has been a pleasure to introduce them to a more normalised 6<sup>th</sup> Form experience. My key role will be continuing to provide pastoral support and advice to your son/daughter during the next crucial year; I am looking forward to working with them.

It has been a very different and challenging 18 months and I thank you for your patience as we integrated your son/daughter into our 6<sup>th</sup> Form community, during a disrupted Year 12. I felt it was important to provide you with an update pertaining to crucial information:

### **Year 13 Information Evening: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Pre-COVID, we hosted a 'Year 13 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 parents/carers in person. This event was scheduled for this coming Thursday at 7:30pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic, and out of an abundance of caution for public health the presentation will now be recorded and you will be sent a YouTube link, early during the week of 20<sup>th</sup> September, so that you can view the presentation at your leisure at home. Please keep an eye on your emails. 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.

### **The School Day / Learning Zone Periods**

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's 6<sup>th</sup> Form experience will be slightly different this year; as many aspects of it will revert back to what 'normal' 6<sup>th</sup> Form life was life, pre-COVID:

- Your son/daughter should attend school at 8:35am every day – this is absolutely crucial after all the disruption of the past 18 months.
- 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 in the morning, they should be making use of the extensive facilities within the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre; Learning Zone, Study Space R16/R17, the Common Room and the School Library. Due to the ending of 'bubble' arrangements; your son/daughter has access to a wider range of spaces.
- 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form Learning Zone for supervised study. This is a crucial feature of 6<sup>th</sup> Form life.



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- Students are not able to leave the school site until 12:15pm at the earliest, after this point they may sign out temporarily and return for lessons, or leave permanently if they have no more lessons on that day.
- 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.

## Mock Examinations

Many students have already asked when formal mock examinations will take place. At this point in time they are scheduled for:

First set of mocks: November 23<sup>rd</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021

Second set of mocks: February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup> 2022

This year, more than ever it is going to be critical that we support your son/daughter with rigorous preparation for public examinations in the summer of 2021. Could I ask all parents to make a note of these dates and consider very strongly the importance of not booking any significant events that could negatively affect your son/daughter's preparation.

## Beyond 18/University Applications/Predicted Grades

Once again, this information will be covered in more detail on the presentation, however I wanted to reassure you that our Beyond 18 support is an integral part of the coming term. On Tuesday, all students in Year 12 will have a special assembly, or individual meeting with Mrs King so we can clearly explain the steps your son/daughter needs to take over the coming months. In particular, for those with UCAS applications, we will once again, walk them through the process. We would like students who are applying to university to send off their applications by mid-November at the latest. It is important to remind you of the earlier deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October if your son/daughter is looking to apply to either the University of Cambridge/Oxford, as well as for courses such as Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science. A small number of students will be required to sit admissions tests as part of their university application; your son/daughter will be aware of this and the Examinations Office have communicated with them the process to arrange for one of these tests, most of which can be administered in school. For further information please click [here](#).

Finally, I am aware that many students will be working hard to improve their predicted grades over the coming months. We have a fair and rigorous process in place in school and students know that they can discuss this at any point with myself or Mr Bell.

## 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:



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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 on 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 normality.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr J Teece  
Head of Year 13

Mr R Bell  
Deputy Head