

1 September 2023

Dear parents and carers

Welcome Back! What You Need to Know

As we look to return to school next week, I am sending you this welcome and to share a few key messages with you.

Over the past 6 weeks we have continued to work hard to improve the school site and learning environment. **Our Music Department and upper floor of Vega building have been totally refurbished** bringing them in line with the new part of the school. New wall arts have been installed in Music and also in Science and at the entrance of Antares (our library). We have also had The Lodge refurbished ready to open as our new satellite hub as we begin our work in partnership with Woodfield School. In other areas of the school we have had new basketball posts erected for general student use during the day, as well as new basketball hoops erected in the Sports Hall for lessons and matches. The whole site has been thoroughly cleaned in anticipation of the new year.

Last year was one of our most successful as a school. Alongside our **GOOD rating from our Ofsted** report we were pleased to receive a great set of GCSE results. They were one of our best results in the past 10 years! The progress that we have made in Teaching & Learning is truly recognised in this set of results, with more students achieving level 4 grades and above, and the majority of students making expected progress across the board. This was our first cohort of students who had the opportunity to study a tenth GCSE subject and everyone who did achieved a pass grade of a level 4 or above, which is just super for them and also for us as a school. **The future is really exciting for us and we are very excited to see your children develop and grow over this coming year.**

This year we welcome some new staff...

Mr Jillani Chief Financing Office

Mrs McCarron Teacher of English

Mr Thirkill Subject Leader of History & Geography

Mrs Barker Teacher of English

Mr Ward Teacher of Maths

Mr Kay Teacher of English

Mr Field Teacher of Maths

Miss Wilkinson Teacher of Science

As our students return it is essential that they are prepared and have the right mindset; we are here to help them achieve their GCSE grades to support their journey through secondary school and on into college. We made a promise to you that we would work hard to ensure they can do this with us. We also pride ourselves in the range of other opportunities that we provide through our Excellence and Enrichment programmes. Our aim this year is for every student to be involved in one activity a week outside of their timetabled curriculum. The more your young person can get involved in school life, the more they will gain from it; not just in terms of learning but in developing friendships and having fun.

I am asking three things of all students and hope that we can work together to achieve this.



1. Attendance

We need your young person in school. Whilst there are always legitimate reasons why someone cannot attend school we all have days where we just 'don't feel like going in', **it is essential that as parents and carers you don't allow those days to occur.** There is a clear correlation between the success of young people with their attendance. We know school isn't for everyone and we will continue to work hard to put support in place to help anyone in that position. Ultimately though school is the process by which students grow and develop and we all want success for our young people. If you think you need help or advice in how to manage their attendance do not hesitate to get in touch with us, just contact your Year Hub in the first instance. Applications for Leave of Absence must be made 7 working days in advance [here](#). I am really sorry but we are unable to authorise absence for holidays longer than 5 days or if a student's attendance is less than 95%. If you decide to take your young person out of school under these circumstances you are likely to receive a fixed penalty notice.

2. Prepared to Learn

Your young person needs to arrive in school on time, with the right equipment and know that they are expected to be in lessons, learning. To learn, they need to listen to instructions, work together with peers and staff, ask questions, do homework and work independently. They are all expected to have the correct equipment including a reading book on them at all times.

3. Uniform and Mobile Phones

Uniform is a key element of being part of our school community. We want our students to take pride in belonging to Carrington School. Please do make sure they have the correct items of uniform that are required and that they have clothing and shoes that fit them properly. At the end of last term we saw a significant improvement in the way the uniform was being worn and we will be expecting the same as we return this Autumn. **Blazers must be worn at all times.**

In terms of the use of mobile phones, we believe in embracing the use of technology and teaching our students how to use these devices appropriately. We do therefore allow them to be used during break times, as well as before and after school, in The Observatory or outside. Please do reiterate this with your young person so they are clear about our expectations.

Start of New Term

Monday 4 September; Year 7 students start at midday.

Tuesday 5 September; Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 students start at 09:15, Year 7s at 08:30.

Clubs

Next week we will be sharing the list of extra-curricular opportunities that will start from 11 September. One of those is Cheerleading, which will be a paid activity as we have an external company offering this for our students. [Please find the details of how to sign up for this HERE.](#)

We look forward to seeing everyone next week and hope you all enjoy the last days of the holiday.

Miss K Oakley

Headteacher

