

Principal: Lesley Welsh

**GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL**



13 September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

I trust this finds you well and would like to welcome you and your child back to another term at George Pindar School. Summer holidays are now long forgotten as we have settled back into school routines and entered the Autumn term. The overwhelming majority of our students have made a superb start to their new school year and on a daily basis we are proud to witness students' engagement and achievements.

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of some changes which have happened over the Summer. A programme of building and IT network improvements have taken place which have provided a better climate for learning in school. Perhaps the most noticeable change for students has been to our lunchtime arrangements, where we have introduced a split lunch so that students have more space to eat and play. Our superb AstroTurf facilities are open to students every lunchtime and our new caterers have introduced a healthy, exciting menu which is proving extremely popular with students and staff alike. We have reacted to initial feedback and refined systems to ensure all students can eat in a leisurely way; teething problems have now been ironed out and students have become accustomed to new routines. Our school council will discuss lunchtime arrangements at their next meeting; however if you have any queries please do contact the school.

Our Pastoral Team has also changed dramatically, with teachers taking on Head of Year roles:

Y7 - Ms Petts
Y8 - Mrs Hoyle
Y9 - Ms Hall
Y10 - Mr Thompson
Y11 - Mr Gadd

As these colleagues also have a teaching timetable, please note that calls are more likely to be dealt with after the school day; however if you have an urgent query please contact the school reception and we will do our best to assist you. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's Head of Year at both the form tutor evening and parents' evening this year; please check our school calendar for upcoming events.

We have high expectations of students in all areas and none more so than with attendance. Our whole-school target for attendance is 96% and we are using a number of strategies to achieve this. Every day at school counts and any absence, whether authorised or unauthorised, is a day of missed learning. Your support in ensuring your child attends school is much appreciated. Please continue to use your child's planner to communicate with us and to check progress in the attendance streak rewards programme we are running.

Cont'd ...

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Our next 'Meet the Principal' evening takes place on Wednesday 18 September at 6.30pm with a presentation on our new online learning tool Sam Learning. This programme is proven to raise achievement and I hope you will enjoy the opportunity to see it in action. The presentation will be followed with an opportunity for questions on any topic. I hope to see you there.

Finally, as noted in my last letter to you, school will close at 12.15 on Tuesday 24 September and reopen at 9.30am on Wednesday 25 September to allow for preparations for our Y5/Y6 Open Evening which takes place on Tuesday evening. School transport has been arranged for 12.15pm on Tuesday 24 September and for one hour later on the morning of Wednesday 25 September. The school bus will leave Irton at 9.00am. If your child catches the school bus please ensure they arrive at the bus stop in good time. If your child travels to school by Beeline taxi the driver will confirm the collection time with your child.

If your child has volunteered to help at Open Evening, a separate letter will explain these arrangements.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events. The home-school partnership is vital to help students succeed and your support is much appreciated in helping every member of the school community aim higher in everything we do.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Welsh
Principal