25 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**An excellent start!**

I have been so impressed with our students in these first few weeks of term. The staggered start went well and I thank you for your support with this. New routines and year group bubbles are creating a wonderfully calm and orderly environment where everyone feels safe. It’s fantastic to walk round the school seeing students engaged with their learning. It makes me so proud.

Students are also benefitting from a new one-week timetable that contains more maths and English lessons as well as more time for the GCSE option subjects. Planners have been given to all in years 7-11 and you will be able to use them to write notes to your child’s tutor. We know how much you appreciated the regular keeping in touch phone calls during lockdown and these will continue half termly, from your child’s new tutor.

Congratulations to Dempsey and Wiktoria in Year 11 who are our new Head Boy and Head Girl here at Merrill, voted for by staff, a great achievement. Their first responsibility will be helping out with the virtual open evening on our website on 5th October. The Form Captain role is also being awarded to a student in each tutor group this week. These are all fantastic opportunities.

I know there have been problems with getting new blazers and ties from our uniform supplier and this should now be getting sorted out. All students need to be arriving each morning in full uniform except on days when they have PE.

When students have PE they need to be in our current PE kit for the day.

* Black leggings, black jogging bottoms, or black shorts
* White or black plain t-shirt
* Black round neck sweat top or zippy with no hood

All of these items can be purchased from any of the larger supermarkets and students will be wearing these for the entire academic year. Other coloured items or hoodies are not part of our uniform and students should not be treating this as a non-uniform day which it isn’t. Other local schools are insisting that students wear their blazers with their PE kit which is something I was hoping to avoid.

I will continue to keep you immediately informed of any Covid infections at Merrill by text and letter or phone call. Our vigilance with keeping safe and reducing risk in the year group bubbles allows the track and trace process to operate quickly. Thank you for your support with this. It’s much appreciated.

Take care and stay safe

Yours faithfully



Ms J Harlow

Headteacher