



**Our Ref:** LTM/kmd/welcomeback

14 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Welcome back to the start of the new term**

Yesterday marked the first day the whole school community returned to school following the arrival of Year 10 students. Last week was extremely positive as year groups returned and we look to Re-set and Re-Establish the many school procedures and opportunities which have been impacted on because of the COVID pandemic. We are incredibly proud of all our students who navigated through the last academic year in such a positive manner. The support and encouragement given between students, staff and families at home ensured that even during the most challenging times, school continued to provide the very best provision.

Looking forward, we have spoken to students about how this year will feel different in relation to COVID restrictions (information regarding this can be found on the school website (<http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>) and also how alongside the re-organising of the physical learning environment, we will be reintroducing the many clubs, activities, trips and visit which have been on hold for so long; I know this is something we are looking forward to.

The school has all COVID requirements in place and will continue to monitor any potential cases in the weeks ahead while responding to advice given by Public Health, we will obviously share any details with you as soon as updates happen.

I would like to welcome our new staff who have joined us over the summer; Dr Erb joins our Science team, Mrs Kendrick (Design Technology), Mrs Preece (Inclusion Mentor) and Mrs Hancox (Admin). We also welcome back Mrs Forward (MFL) and Mrs Gillam (ICT) who return following their maternity leave.

Before the summer we also reorganised our Heads of Year as outlined below; who continue to be supported by our Pastoral team (Mrs Bridgwater, Mrs Goodison, Ms Barlow and Mrs Fyfe):

Year 7	Mr Smith
Year 8	Mrs Lawson
Year 9	Mr Cook
Year 10	Miss Warner
Year 11	Mr Cowburn
6th form	Mrs Bishell

Can I thank students and families for the positive response given over the summer with regards to school uniform, this is something we were very keen to focus on at the start of the new academic year. Students have returned in line with expectations and been fully prepared, with any outstanding issues being highlighted to individual parents.

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Over the coming weeks we look forward to sharing with you the activities students have been involved in as they commence the next stage of their OWS journey. A reminder, we circulate all global communication via the school text service and have now launched the school app which links to materials on the school website (download 'Appschoools' from the Google Play store or Apple Store, then select 'Oldbury Wells School' from the list). The app will give you quick and easy access to our school website, as well as helpful links such as letters home, term dates, parent pay, Satchel One and more.

In addition, we actively use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to celebrate students' successes, I would recommend you follow our pages to keep updated with developments.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding our school Open Evening followed by Open Mornings on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October. In preparation for Open Evening school will close early on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October with students arriving in school at 8:40am for normal time for Tutor Period. Lessons 1&2 will follow with an extended break and then lesson 3 only. Lessons will end at 12:45 with busses departing site from 1:00pm onwards. Families will need to ensure arrangements are in place to receive children at pick up points earlier than normal.

In preparation for these events, our photographer will be on site from today to capture students in action; please note we will be using details from our photo consent data base when selecting any materials to be used.

Finally, can I wish all students and staff every success in the weeks ahead; while looking forward to meeting families as we increase the opportunities for parents/careers to be in school.

Thanks as always for your support.

Yours sincerely



**Mr L Tristham**  
Headteacher