



1 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

In this letter: Return to school next week
Safeguarding and social media
Reminders and expectations for September

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and your child/ren are very much looking forward to returning to school next week. For those families joining us in Year 7, a very warm welcome to you.

The beginning of term has arrived and our site has been further improved during the break, with a number of new science labs, new PE changing rooms and many other site improvements. Both GCSE and A Level results were a huge success with many happy students looking forward to the next step on their journey.

When is my child returning to school?

The return to school next week will be staggered as per the details below.

Date of Return	Year group to return	Time
Tuesday 5 September	7,11,12 and 13 only Photographs for Year 7,12,13	Through the gates by 8:30
Wednesday 6 September	All year groups 7-13	

[Our new school day](#) and school [term dates](#) for next year are on our website.

The school will welcome over 1000 students next week. Please see our leaflet attached to the bottom of this letter to understand our car park expectations and how we can all work together to keep the drop off and pick up as safe and smooth as possible for all.

Where does my child go on their first day back?

All students should arrive onsite by 8:30 and walk to their house area where they will be welcomed by their Head of House and Tutor. Sixth Form students should walk to the Sixth Form block.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Our number one priority is keeping children safe from harm. All of us have a responsibility as members of the St. Katherine's School community. If you are worried that a child is at risk of harm from abuse, neglect, bullying or have any other concerns it is your responsibility to share this information so that we can support the child/ren that are affected. There are a number of ways you can let us know what you are worried about. You can:

- 1) email Mrs Crocker, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) crockerk@skdrive.org;
- 2) telephone school and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team;

- 3) Click the anonymous 'tell someone' button on the homepage of our school [website](#) - please provide as much detail as possible so we can take appropriate action to keep children safe.

'Mobile Phone free' school - 'not seen or heard'

If a phone is seen (whether in a student's hand, pocket or otherwise) it will be confiscated and returned the following school day. We recognise mobile phones and social media can cause social disagreement and anxieties amongst teenagers. We have seen an increase in the number of mobile phones visible on the site over recent months and wish to send a clear message to all students that all mobile phones must not be seen or heard. If a student is repeatedly seen with a mobile phone on the school site, the confiscation period will be extended. Thank you for your support in helping your child/ren understand our expectations along with the consequences of their phone being seen or heard. **We expect parents/carers to contact reception should you need to pass a message to your child/ren during the school day.**

Social Media

We ask all parents/carers to actively engage with their child's life online and regularly monitor their child/ren's use of social media. We ask that you only allow children to have age appropriate apps on their phone and do not allow them to have social media accounts for platforms before they meet the minimum age requirement. We know that children sometimes experience bullying or are exposed to inappropriate content online and this most often happens on group chats involving a large number of students. We would advise that you do not allow your child to join large group chats. Advice and support for parents/carers can be found on the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#). As with all circumstances where you are worried about a member of our school community, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we ask that you contact school to inform us of your concern so that we can support those that are affected.

Reminders for September

- **Uniform - wear it with pride - All children must have their shirts tucked in and ties worn on the top button.** We will be reinforcing these standards from September and will be issuing lunchtime detentions for those that choose not to wear uniform correctly.
- **All children must wear black, polishable shoes (not trainers). To confirm, Nike Air Force 1s are trainers and are not permitted.** Any child who arrives in school in incorrect footwear will be asked to change into a pair of shoes from our school stock.
- **We do not allow facial piercings in school.** Children may wear one plain stud in each ear. If your child chose to have a facial piercing over the summer holiday it will need to be removed for the return to school. We ask that children do not wear jewellery to school other than a single flat ring on each hand and a single plain necklace. **False nails and nail extensions are not permitted and children will be asked to remove them.**
- **Let's Go Zero - all children are required to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day.** We recognise we must do more to improve sustainability and we now have 'hydration zones' in the school. *Students can bring their own bottle or share their design with the DAT department and students will have a personalised water bottle with their name on it!*
- **Years 7, 8 and 11 will share the first lunch** from 12.20 to 13.00. Year 9 and 10 will share the second lunch from 13.20 to 14.00.
- **We expect all children to be through the gates by 8.30am** to allow them to be registered promptly at 8.35 am. Being punctual supports all children as they move into the world of work and because being punctual is a sign of respect, one of our core values.
- **Homework Club - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 3:05 - 4:00 in CR1**
- Students are encouraged to bring a small pair of headphones with them to use with our computers

What support is available for purchasing uniform?

Any child in receipt of the Pupil Premium is eligible to receive support with the cost of school uniform. To obtain this, you must order your uniform via school@skdrive.org. We also have pre-loved uniform available directly from school which can be accessed through the email above. Should you have any concerns around purchasing any item of uniform, please contact your child's Head of House for support.

Equipment: all students should arrive at school properly equipped and ready to learn. Please ensure that your child has the following equipment with them each day:

- Black pens
- Green pens
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Coloured pencils
- Ruler (30 cm)
- Protractor
- Glue stick
- Pencil case
- Reading book
- Scientific calculator (the [Aurora Dot Matrix scientific calculator](#) is the best value that we are aware of and is available online).
- Water bottle
- Small pair of headphones

During September there will be Virtual Information Evenings as detailed below to highlight our curriculum, important systems and an opportunity to clarify any questions.

Year 7 Parent/Carer Virtual Information Evening | 18:00-19:00 | Tuesday 5 September

Please join [here](#), in the event that the meeting is full, you will be able to livestream via this [link](#)

Sixth Form Parent/Carer Virtual Information Evening | 1800-1900 | Tuesday 12 September

Please join [here](#), in the event that the meeting is full, you will be able to livestream via this [link](#)

Year 8-11 Parent/Carer Virtual Information Evening | 1800-1900 | Wednesday 20 September

Please join [here](#), in the event that the meeting is full, you will be able to livestream via this [link](#)

We trust this information is useful and clarifies some of the questions you may have. Inevitably there will be further questions and we ask you to contact us at school@skdrive.org.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming all our students through the gates next week.

Yours sincerely





Justin Humphreys
Headteacher



Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

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 St Katherine's School  @stkathsschool

Keeping Children Safe in the Car Park

8 coaches	100 cars		
1000 students			

From Sept 2023:

- Strict 5 mph speed limit
- One way through the car park
- Priority as follows:
 - Pedestrians
 - Coaches/Minibuses
 - Cars
- Follow directions from any member of staff in HiViz clothing
- When stopped in the car park engines should be turned off
- Pedestrian only use of walkways indicated



AM Drop off

- Coaches arrive between 8:15 and 8:25. Try and avoid these times if dropping off by car.
- Please do not stop in any red zone on the map.
- Follow directions from staff to the amber zones: upper car park or the bus lane, moving as far down the bus lane as possible to leave room for others behind.
- If you need to take your time dropping off your child/ren, please find a parking space in the green zones.

PM Pick up

- Coaches will be scheduled to depart by 3:00. Collection by car after this time will be easier.
- **No stopping in any red or amber zones when coaches are present on the site.** Park in the green zones.
- When 8 coaches are on site, all through traffic will be via the top car park.