

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! Our phased return is now underway, I am pleased to let everyone know that it has been a successful first two days, with students engaging well with both the work set on TEAMS and the in-school testing process. We are all looking forward to all students being back in together on Monday 6th September at 8:40am. Following this return please continue with the twice weekly LFT testing at home.

It has been particularly pleasing to meet our new year 7s, some for the first time, on their first day. They have done themselves proud over their first two days and we are sure this will continue. We hope you will have had chance to see some photographs of them on the schools Facebook page as well as discuss with them what they have been doing.

Today also marks the end of my first week as Headteacher. Although not new to the Federation, it is with great pride that I now lead it. It is a Federation where we live our values; at the heart of our community, developing our students to flourish in their communities both now and in the future. We are committed to ensuring all students make continuous progress in a safe, inclusive and ambitious environment, working together as a team with the moral courage to do the right thing for our students. We are small but mighty!

The Federation is now stronger than it has ever been. Both Solway and Beacon Hill Community Schools are well integrated, and staff are sharing planning, training, and learning from the best that happens in both schools. This continues to support the very best learning and experiences for students in each school. We are committed to supporting successful transition from KS2 into KS3 as well as KS4 into post-16 provision and we work closely with our local primary schools, and colleges, sixth forms and other providers, to ensure this is successful. The Federation has decided not to continue with the soft Federation we have previously had in place with Richmond Hill Primary School, but will continue to work very closely with them.

Timetables

We have now moved to a two-week timetable, which means their lessons will roll over a two-weekly schedule. This will allow us to make a broader curriculum offer and increased opportunities to our students. Students will be given their timetables this week, but it is important you are aware they may have subjects (including PE) on different days, depending on the WEEK.

As all students are in together starting on Monday we have decided to designate the week beginning 6th September as WEEK 1. It will then alternate from WEEK 1 to WEEK 2 and then back again. To support our parents and students and reduce confusion, we will publish on Facebook which WEEK it is, as well as regular emails and other reminders, including lots of signs around school.

Finally, please make sure your child is fully prepared for normal lessons to resume on Monday 6th September. That means wearing the correct uniform and bringing the appropriate equipment with them, their PE kit if needed and a positive attitude to learning. We are very excited to have all students back in school in a way that is more normal than it has been recently and look forward to their positivity, energy and enthusiasm.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. E. Hailwood', written in a cursive style.

Tom Hailwood
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