

August 30 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you had a good break over the summer holidays and that the students are ready for the new school year. While the first issue of the Elton Times is scheduled for the second full week of term (on Wednesday 14th September), I would like to take this opportunity to provide an early update about some key notices for the new school year.

GCSE Results

Our recent cohort of Yr 11 students achieved an overall strong set of GCSE results that reflected the hard work and efforts that they made, while the outcomes were also testament to the support offered by our staff. Photos and more details will be provided in the forthcoming Elton Times and we congratulate those students for their excellent outcomes which were achieved against difficult, Covid-related circumstances in recent years.

Staffing

Having said farewell to a number of staff in July, we now welcome the following staff to our school for this new term and know that they will prove to be fantastic additions to our team.

Head of English – Ms Gill

Head of Maths – Ms Halkon

Teacher of English – Mr Britten

Teacher of Art – Mr Goodwin

Teacher of Maths – Ms Aslam

Teacher of History – Mr Cooke

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Hayman, Miss Webber, Miss Price

Behaviour Mentor – Ms Turner

First day of term – Monday 5th September

As we have done in previous years there will be a staggered start to the first school day for different groups of students. Please note that these details have been slightly changed from the information that was sent in July and the arrangements are shown below:

- 8.45am – Year 7 and Yr 10 Peer Mentors who are attached to Yr 7 forms
- 10.00am – Yr 11 Prefects
- 10.30am – Rest of Yr 11
- 11.20am – Rest of Year 10, all Year 8, all Year 9

We appreciate that some of our new Year 7 students will be apprehensive about starting high school and that some parents/carers will be similarly nervous! We are therefore having an informal Coffee Morning on that first day for new parents/carers, so that they can bring their children into school for the start of the day at 8.45am, then meet with and raise any questions with senior staff in our canteen. The school will be open for this opportunity from 8.45am – 9.30am, no bookings are needed and you just need to turn up as you wish.



Following that first day, we will revert to a consistent start for all year groups for the rest of the term, with students expected to arrive to school for 8.40am, with registration starting at 8.45am.

School Day

The school canteen continues to be open from 8.20am every day and there is some seating available in the canteen from that time. The Library is also open from 8.20am and students are welcome to use it as they wish.

We have made some changes to dinnertime arrangements, with Yrs 7/9/10 having dinner together in the first slot at 12.20pm and Yrs 8/11 in the second slot from 1.20 pm.

Form Groups

Wherever possible we have kept the same form groups and tutors in place for our younger students. However, we have reviewed the form groups for our new Year 11 and they will be allocated their new group when they arrive in school next week. Changes have been made for our Year 11 for the following reasons:

- Some of the forms had become too large (up to 33 students) which does not facilitate personalised attention and support as we approach GCSE examinations.
- Intervention and support for revision has always been provided for Year 11 and the smaller form groups will enable us to deliver this more effectively.
- The tutors have been allocated such that students can directly benefit from their specialist subject support when necessary.

Uniform

Much of our strong reputation across Bury is based on the way that our students wear their uniform and conduct themselves in the community. We continue to appreciate your support in ensuring that they arrive to school wearing our uniform in the right manner. Trainers are not allowed, jewellery and make up are not permitted and skirts should not be rolled up.

Equipment

Students should continue to take responsibility for bringing in the necessary equipment and there will be regular checks on a weekly basis in form time. All students should have a school bag with the following equipment items required on a daily basis - Writing pens (Black/blue/green); Pencil; Maths equipment including scientific calculator; Glue stick; If possible, ear phones for IT lesson (these should not be the 'air pods' but should have a lead which enables them to be plugged directly into the computer).

Mobile Phones

Our policy works well and remains in place for September. Students should have their phones switched off and kept away during school hours (from 8.45am until 2.50pm). There is a sliding scale of consequences for use of a phone in school. For first offence, the phone is returned at the end of the same day, for second offence it is confiscated and returned at the end of the following day, for third offence a meeting is required with parents/carers.



Homework and SIMS Parent App

From the start of this term all homework will be set and recorded via the SIMS Parent App, so that you receive notice about the homework that is being set. While most of our parents / carers have access to the app, we realise that those who are new to our school will not yet have accessed it. The link below takes you through the straightforward process of downloading the app.

<https://eltonhigh.bury.sch.uk/2021/09/08/sims-parent-app/>

If you have any more questions or are struggling to access the app, please contact Mr Thompson directly (thompsond@eltonhigh.bury.sch.uk).

Canteen Payments

As was the case last year, we will operate a cashless system within our canteen, with parents/carers topping up the children's accounts online as necessary. To access the account please go to www.bury.gov.uk/payforit and select "School Payments." You will need your child's UPN number (which they will have had since primary school). If you need any more information then please contact our canteen manager directly (m.simpson@bury.gov.uk).

Forthcoming Events

We have organised an information evening for our Year 11 students and parents/carers, outlining the main details for their final year of GCSE study. The evening will also include support from local colleges who will be available to answer questions about application processes and entry requirements. More details will be sent next week but please note that the scheduled time and date for this event is 5.30pm on Thursday 15th September.

Individual Student Photos

School photos for all students will take place on Tuesday 13 September 2022.

I hope that this provides a clear update about our plans for the new term. We are really looking forward to the new school year and continuing to build upon the successes of recent times. As always, feel free to follow up any questions or queries with myself directly through the email address below and many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Wilton, Headteacher

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