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Dear Parent/Carer,

At the end of the third week of term I just wanted to update you on a small number of areas of our current work ahead of the weekend:

### **Uniform**

Thank you for your understanding as we have been distributing and, where required exchanging, ordered uniform - a process which has been much less straightforward this year due to circumstances. We now think that this has been completed and hence we are able to move to the compulsory wearing of full uniform by all students on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. Please note that this will apply to both normal school and that worn in PE lesson. **On days when students have practical PE lessons they should come into school wearing their PE kit with their blazer on top.**

Hopefully letting you know this today will allow enough time for any final purchases required to be made ahead of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - please see our website for full details of required uniform.

### **Reading Book**

From next week (ie Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September), we would like to make a **reading book** part of the essential items that all students should be bringing to school with them. This will hopefully encourage what is an essential pastime and also mean that students have something to occupy them throughout the school day when required. Please note that students will also be given some extra equipment purchased by the school to use in lessons next week - their own personal green pen and glue-stick for example. This will mean that students never need to share these items and it will be important that they look after them carefully.

### **Face Coverings on Buses**

A reminder that the wearing of face-coverings on buses is essential and must be done so at all times. From next week (ie from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September) the Local Authority will be doing 'spot-checks' to ensure that this is happening ahead of stricter measures being enforced where necessary.

## **INSET Day**

A reminder that the school will be closed to students next Thursday (24<sup>th</sup> September) due to an INSET Day. Unfortunately given the date has been published in advance, we are not able to change the INSET Day despite the fact that the Open Evening it was designed to coincide with (which requires a different school building set-up to a normal school day) is not now going ahead. Hence apologies for any for any understandable frustration which parents may be feeling that students are away from school so soon after their post-lockdown return. Hopefully it will give students a chance to pause for breath and reflect upon and revisit their learning so far this month, as well as catch up on any outstanding homework. In lieu of the cancelled Open Evening, a date for this year's 'virtual' event will shortly be announced.

## **Gatherings Outside School**

Given the 'rule of six' which came into force across the country this week, we would be grateful if parents could join the school in emphasising to our students the need to avoid gathering in numbers outside of school. This will enable them to continue to play their part in the collective effort to overcome what is such a challenge for the country. Unfortunately a number of concerns have been raised this week from members of our community about inappropriately large gatherings of young people in parks and outside shops in both the Helsby and Frodsham areas.

Thank you for your on-going support of our students and the school's work this week. Sadly, after such a positive start to the term and the amazing way our students have so quickly and happily settled back into being in school, we are all now once again looking to concerning and uncertain times ahead. Please be reassured that we are quickly putting plans in place to continue teaching our students and cover our curriculum in an appropriately safe manner, whether students are in school or required to learn from home at any stage. As has been the case since March, any parental uncertainty would be completely understandable in these testing times and so please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school at any stage if required.

I hope that you all enjoy what promises to be a sunny weekend ahead.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill  
Headteacher