

## Newsletter

**Wow. We are actually back.**

It has been so good to see you all this week. Exhausting, but good. I have been beyond impressed by all of our fabulous new starters. Welcome to the CUC Building! You have been an absolute pleasure so far and we can't wait to get into lessons with you next week.

A few highlights from this week's sessions:

**Year 9** – Ignite students spent their first days preparing to get stuck into lessons next week. They had a great introduction to the ethos of our schools and our expectations. They also had the chance to work with Dr Paul Myers from Farm Urban and hear from Dr John Dyer, our head of innovation about their Project Based Learning opportunities. Friday involved some exciting project learning and your ideas were inspired. Great work! The students were an absolute credit to you as parents and carers, the behaviour and engagement has been fantastic so far.

**Year 10** – New Year 10 students joined us on Thursday and we welcomed back our previous Year 9 students on Friday. It was great to bring the two groups together and see lots of new friendships emerging. Students were clearly pleased to be together again and are already getting into the swing of being back in school.

**Year 11** – Students checked in with us on Wednesday and have already impressed us with their grown-up attitudes. They clearly recognise the importance of this year and the need to work consistently throughout the year to ensure all work is at the right standard. There is a lot to do this year and we are all excited and

ready for the challenge. Parents and Carers – your support here is so important in making sure our Year 11s settle quickly back into their GCSE preparation and we are so grateful that we get to work with you to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

**Year 12** – What an amazing new year group, full of passion and commitment and ready to get started after an unsettled end of year 11. We have spent induction meeting the team, understanding the vision and ethos of the schools, and getting organised with our timetables. Monday will be a big day with our first sixth form lessons so have a good rest this weekend.

**Year 13** – Welcome back Year 13, it was so good to check in with you after the long months apart and see the benefits of the online learning you have worked hard at over the spring and summer terms. Everyone is clear on how much work we need to do and ready to get stuck in. We are by your side and as a team will make sure get back on track as quickly as possible.

Make sure you are following us on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for more updates during the week.



I also wanted to include a few reminders as there is still lots of information to take in as we all get settled.

1. We love punctuality, but please do not arrive too early. I appreciate this is a weird thing to hear from your school, and usually we would absolutely embrace your enthusiasm and keenness – but in order to maintain the year group bubbles we do need to ask that you are not arriving too early.
2. Staggered start and finish times going forward. A quick recap of your year group times below.

**Staggered Start and Finish Times from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September onwards:**

Year Group	Start of Day	End of Day	End of Day - Fridays
9	9am	3pm	12:00
10	9.15am	3.15pm	12:15
11	9.30am	3.30pm	13:00
12	9.45am	3.45pm	13:15
13	10am	4.00pm	13:30

3. Uniforms are mostly looking very smart. Please do remember that trainers are not part of the uniform or business dress code. If you are not correctly dressed, you may well be sent home to change so keep up your standards.
4. Students will need to start loading their cards to pay for lunches next week (unless you are entitled to free school meals). Cards will be printed and distributed early next week with instructions on how to login to your account. Students are of course welcome to bring packed lunches instead.
5. You will receive a phone call at some point in the next two weeks from your child's coach to discuss how they are settling in. We look forward to speaking to you soon.
6. We will be adding a students' services page to our website next week so keep checking the sites if you have questions. You are welcome to contact the office team by email at
7. Students have been extremely mature about following the safety guidance and we are grateful for your support in keeping everyone safe. We are reminding students regularly about wearing masks, using hand sanitiser and maintaining distancing. As a reminder for parents, please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus. Please notify us immediately of any health concerns and any student absences.



### Open Evening

We are hosting small socially distanced open evenings on Thursdays between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. If you have friends or family who may be interested in joining us for Year 9,10 or 12 please do let them know they can register via the schools websites.

I can only once again thank you for your enduring support, commitment and engagement with us. We are all excited for a fantastic term and new school year and look forward to working with you all.

Stay safe and take care

Jill Davies, Principal

