

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School  
providing a Values Based Education*

Update Letter 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

We hope that everyone has had a restful and safe Summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming students to school for the start of the new school year. Ahead of tomorrow, here are a few last-minute reminders and updates.

## Start of the School Day

School starts at the normal time tomorrow – students are allowed on site from 8.45am (gates will be open from about 10 minutes beforehand). Students will be met by their form tutor on the playground. If students have forgotten which group they are in, they do not need to worry as there will be plenty of staff to help them to the right place.

We ask that students travelling by bus are courteous and safe – lining up sensibly, boarding the bus in an orderly manner and being polite to the driver. We will meet students on arrival in school and we recommend that KS2 sit downstairs (Year 6 at the back of the bus, Year 5 at the front) and KS3 students sit upstairs (Year 8 at the back of the bus and Year 7 at the front).

Students will have some induction time with their Form Tutors and we will start our normal timetable from Lesson 4. Students will be issued with a Student Organiser and provided with a copy of their timetable. Year 5 students will be escorted to and from lessons for the first week.

## Focus for the year

As a school, we are focussing on two core values to guide us through the year: **respect** and **kindness**. We hope that all members of our school community will be able to demonstrate these values in practice inside and outside of school. We are also introducing an acronym to help in lessons:

Learning-focussed  
Engaged and Equipped to learn  
Always being the best you can be  
Respectful and Kind  
No excuses

## School Photographs

The School Photographer will be in school on Thursday morning this week.

## Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and we like students to be smart and ready to learn. We are also very practical at Holywell and, according to the weather forecast, next week will be sunny and hot. **Students do not, therefore, have to wear blazers** and they should make sure they are prepared for the sun (ie. apply some sun block before coming to school and bringing a hat). Tailored shorts are part of our normal school uniform, so these may also be worn. We are expecting students to wear shirts (not polo shirts).



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Stewart – Deputy Headteacher: Miss A Craddock

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Miss A Stewart & Mrs J Johnson

Senior Leaders: Mr M Eames & Mrs J French – SENDCo: Miss A Stepney

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With regard to PE lessons, please note the following:

- Tuesday: No PE kit expected.
- Wednesday: If students have PE, they should come in their PE kit.
- Thursday: If students have PE, they can wear trainers (they will need to be in uniform for their school photographs – lessons will be adapted accordingly)
- Friday: If students have PE, they should come in their PE kit.

### RAAC


Given all the media discussion about Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings, I wanted to let you know that we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings. We commissioned an independent structural survey which was carried out during the Summer break and the surveyor confirmed that we do not have any RAAC in the school.

### Groupings

For most of their lessons, students will be in tutor groups and/or mixed teaching groups. For English we will also start the year in mainly mixed-ability groups with a review taking place after students have settled into school and following some assessments (both formal and informal teacher assessments). This will be the same for Year 5 students for Maths with Years 6-8 being in revised streamed groups based on last year's performance. Year 8 will also be introduced to the subjects available for their Year 8 option and they will express a preference – groups will be organised for the start of next week.

### Start of the Year Reflection

After many walks and journeys over the Summer break, I was amazed at how there was always a path to follow. The challenge is always to choose a good path. At Holywell, all of our choices about our direction of travel are based on our Christian values – if we always choose the right path, we will ensure that we all 'Live Life in all its Fullness.'




## Follow the path



Follow the path  
Never give up  
Even when the way is steep  
And the rain falls.

Follow the path  
Brave the storm  
Dance among the raindrops  
And always be yourself.

Follow the path  
Your own unique path  
The path we walk together  
And look after your companions.



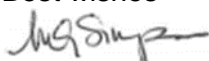
Follow the path  
Follow the holy path  
Follow the Holywell path  
And we will find a way  
... through, to, with and in community.



**Holywell School**  
A Church of England School providing a values-based education  
**Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care**

We also cherish the paths laid down by 'those who have gone before' ... and, this year, we are celebrating 50 years of Holywell School – watch out for further information ... and we look forward to an excellent year of learning and fellowship with you all.

Best wishes



Mike Simpson  
Headteacher