

Dear Form II,

Let me welcome you all to the new academic session and introduce myself, Mr Smith, as your Head of Year with Ms Hussain as the Assistant Head of Year. Together with your Form Tutors, we are the Guidance team that will support you as you progress through the school until you leave at the end of Form VI.

There's no doubt that since we were last in school there have been some significant changes to how we go about our daily lives and returning to school will, in many ways, echo that; however, I very much hope that, like me, you are looking forward to being back in the school again and enjoying learning, and being with other members of our wonderful school community, in person.

Mr Burbury contacted your parents recently with details of how we will be returning to school, starting the school day and going about our school business from day to day. From the outset it must be stressed that we do not wish to return only to have the school closed and a return to online learning, our preference is for the school to remain open so your cooperation and compliance with how we will be working in school is essential. As such, we all must play our part in following the new school rules so that everyone is safe and we avoid unnecessary risks.

This means that while you are in school good hygiene habits are important and the following are essential:

- **frequent washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving a school building, before/after eating and after using the toilet.**
- **avoid touching your face including mouth, eyes and nose.**
- **using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze.**

I have attached details of how the school day will start and of the structure of the school day (it has changed from last session). Breaktimes and lunchtimes are staggered; it's important to note that **Form II must remain on the campus at break and lunch – you are not allowed to go down town.**

What to bring

In addition to your usual books, stationery, etc. we ask that all pupils bring with them a PPE kit (face mask, hand sanitiser, alcohol wipes and disposable gloves - masks should not contain any logos or slogans.), a packet of tissues is also a good idea. Also a reminder to bring your **wristband** – if you have lost it, please contact the school office asap to arrange for a replacement to be issued to you.

Arriving in school

You are asked to arrive at school between 8:30 and 8:40am. You must go through one of the tents to get your temperature checked when you come into school – these are located on both sides of the west approach adjacent to the war memorial. Only once you have been temperature checked and given the all clear should you then make your way to your Form Class.

Physical Distancing

The scientific advice is that physical distancing between young people in secondary schools is not required to ensure a safe return to schools. However, in the Senior School, we will be doing everything we can to encourage physical distancing while making sure everyone can come back to school full time. For example, staggered break times and one-way systems will be introduced, and you may be required to stay in specific class or year group 'bubbles'. Teachers will be recommended to maintain a 2m distance from pupils and if this is not possible, we have guidelines in place for this.

School Uniform and bags

School uniform should be worn. Blazers, initially, will be optional. You should wear your PE/Sports kit throughout the day on days when you have timetabled PE/Sport or co-curricular sport (as no changing rooms will be available).

As you do not have timetabled PE nor do you have co-curricular hockey or rugby on a Thursday (FII after school hockey and rugby are on Mondays and Wednesdays), there is no requirement to wear sports kit on your first day and so uniform should be worn. Form II have timetabled PE the following day so **please wear your PE kit to school on Friday.**

In addition, **you are required to keep your bags with you throughout the day**, which will be a change of habit for many.

Lunches

A packed lunch is the easiest option for lunch. If you do not bring a packed lunch, the dining hall will offer a reduced menu, with three hot meal choices available inside the dining hall and three cold choices available for collection from a marquee. Remember that **you will not be able to go down-town at break-time or lunchtime for food**, in order to avoid large gatherings in and around local shops. However, we are working with local providers to enable them to sell and distribute popular lunch-time items on the school site.

Co-curricular clubs

I know that some of you have already been involved with pre-season rugby and hockey training and we aim to get more of our co-curricular programme up and running as soon as it is safe to do so.

On Tuesday 25 of August from 1.30pm to 3.15pm all of Form II will participate in the CCF Activities Afternoon. This afternoon will demonstrate the activities available through the CCF as well as providing an excellent opportunity for pupils to bond through team building tasks with members of their Form Tutor Group. A wide range of exciting activities have been organised and these will all take place outdoors and in line with the Dollar Academy's Covid19 Health and Safety Framework. Given the changeable nature of the weather all Form II pupils are to arrive in school on Tuesday wearing old clothes that can become wet and dirty or their CCF uniform. If anyone has any questions or queries about the afternoon or CCF in general please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Some more of our activities will be able to begin straight away, whilst others are more problematic. Further details about the co-curricular offering will follow in due course.

Assemblies

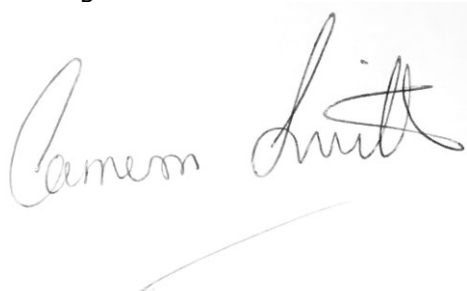
There will be no assemblies for the foreseeable future as large gatherings of pupils are to be avoided; however, it is likely that these will be re-introduced later in the school session.

New Pupils

We are delighted to welcome 12 new pupils, both day pupils and boarders, into our year group. As everyone has been a new pupil at some point, you know that this can be an exciting but perhaps an anxious time for new pupils and while we have a well-established buddy system in place for new pupils to help them get around – especially now there are one way systems in place- this is an opportunity for everyone to go out of their way to help new members of the school feel at ease and to make new friends. Your Form Tutors will speak to you about all aspects of moving around the campus and the buddy system when you see them on Thursday morning.

I hope that you have found this information useful and please do not worry about the return to school; we can all help each other with the new routines which I am sure that we will all get used to quickly. While Ms Hussain and I have been hearing about you as individuals and what a lovely year group you are from Dr Johnson, we are very much looking forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, enjoy the last few days of your summer break and I look forward to seeing you all safe and well and back at school next week.

Kind regards



Cameron Smith
Head of Form II