



Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

From the Principal **Mr James Murphy-O'Connor** MA Oxon

4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope that you have enjoyed a restful and restorative summer. This seems particularly important this year after the challenges that have faced our community. I write on behalf of colleagues here to thank you for your patience and support over the past five months.

We are delighted with the public exam results, achieved in the most challenging of environments. This is a great testament to the inspiration of our staff, combined with the hard work of the students and your support as parents. It gives our schools a great lift as we start the new year.

We know that we will not be returning to the 'world we knew'. It will be a new challenge for all of our community to try to navigate the new world and I have every confidence that, working together, we can find a positive, new equilibrium.

The most important element of our plan for the new school year is to ensure the safety of every member of our community. To this end Tessa Norgrove, our Bursar, has already published **our Risk Assessment** which has taken many weeks to write and I am very grateful to her for all her hard work on this. The Risk Assessment can be read on our website. The Risk Assessment remains a 'live' document as we will make key changes as advice and experience helps to shape best practice. We have walked the school sites with union representatives who have made important contributions to ensure that we are ready for next week. We will keep you informed.

By now you will have seen the '**Return to School**' brochures distributed to all parents and students which outlines all the key information and advice for the first few days back at school as well as ongoing guidelines. These are now on our website if you would like to read any of the brochures. I am most grateful to the Heads for their input and to the Marketing Team who designed and distributed the brochures.

Next week Audley Twiston-Davies, our Chair of Governors, Tessa Norgrove, our Bursar and I will be addressing all members of our staff in four separate presentations over the course of Monday and Tuesday. My presentation will be an outline of the plan I am working on for the future of our schools, which have been drawn together as a result of the changes made in our schools in recent years combined with thoughts inspired by conversations with staff and others over my first year here in the community. I would welcome your input to this Plan and I will be setting up Parent Forums this year to hear your views and to listen to your feedback on other elements of our service and how this can be improved. I will be in touch with some dates.

As we return I do write with a word of warning. Currently there are extensive traffic works in Monmouth and these are having an impact on the traffic flow through the town which will have an effect on school journeys and transport. We will keep you informed.

Kind regards

WJ Murphy - O'Connor