



Smithdon High School  
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Ref: AGi/LT

2 July 2021

Dear parents

I can't believe that the end of term is approaching so fast. As I write to you we have exactly 3 weeks left before the Summer Holidays begin. What a year it has been again: so many plans have been postponed by the pandemic and so many events cancelled.

However, I am pleased to confirm that the end of term trips to Pleasurewood Hills and the last 3 days of Curriculum Enhancement activities are able to go ahead. We are looking forward to spending time with the students carrying out some positive enrichment activities and celebrating their achievements in end of year assemblies - though unfortunately, we are still unable to invite parents to attend these events this year.

I am also delighted that we have been able to adjust our plans for Sports Day by having individual year group sessions of Track and Field events next Tuesday and Wednesday, with year group spectators able to watch the Track events. We are also venturing into new creativity by replacing our Music and Arts concert - originally planned for next Thursday - with a presentation of videos of performances that will be released online for everyone to enjoy. We have Year 11 students returning to take part in their final Smithdon Performances as well as a variety of acts and art work presented from across the year groups. Look out for the release of the video on the website and via Twitter before the end of term.

We are also excited to be welcoming a number of our new Year 7 cohort to the school in the holidays for a week's Summer School to help them prepare for the move to Smithdon in the new school year. We have a full programme of activities, with a daily focus on English and Maths, alongside a variety of curriculum and enrichment activities: from Beach School to a sports afternoon, from experimenting in cooking to experimenting in Science, and from being creative in Art to being artistic in Music - and much more!

### Laptops

If your child was issued a laptop during the course of this year, particularly during lockdown, their software is due to expire in the next few months and the Government-added features will cease to work. As such, we require any school laptops (not the towers/monitors) to be returned to us before the end of term to be reset. **Please return your child's laptop to the main office, along with the carry case and a label with your child's name as soon as possible in the next two weeks.**

### Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our expectations for smart school uniform - including trousers which are not skin-tight, cropped or leggings - and the wearing of black school shoes, not trainers or shoes with logos. We have noticed some of these creeping in over the last few weeks - but they are not part of Smithdon High School's uniform. We expect all of our students to return in September meeting the stated requirements on the uniform list and ready for the new year ahead. To assist with this, following several parents reporting issues last year with finding appropriately tailored girls' grey trousers, you will now be able to purchase these directly from us should you wish. We have sourced a supplier for fitted, tailored grey trousers which are fashionable but not too tight. Please see the school shop on the website for further information regarding these.

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**September Term Dates/Return to School**

Finally, you will have heard some of the announcements in the news regarding potential Government requirements for the start of term in September, including a return to the mass testing programme we had in place in March following this year's lockdown. The official information and expectations have yet to be shared by the Department for Education but from what is being reported in the news, I believe this will have an impact on our planned days and timings for returning to school. As soon as we have the formal confirmation, we will contact you again (hopefully before the end of term) to confirm the return dates and plans for every year group.

I hope you all remain safe and well over the summer - and I look forward to a return to school in September, which also sees the ability to restart some of our more 'normal' daily routines, clubs and opportunities for students to get involved in, the ability for parents to come into school and a return to our live performance events.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs A Gibbins**  
**Head of School**