

4 September 2024

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are well and feel that it's been good to have your young person around over the summer, being more a help than a hindrance. Some I know are really ready to get back to school routines, and others no doubt are a little sad that this time has gone by and we are all shortly back to the grind-stone. As a staff we are eager to work with your young person and help them prepare for all that lies ahead - new courses, new challenges, and getting involved in school life.

Carrington has continued to improve on its GCSE results, and we send our best wishes to our latest cohort of students as they wait to embark on new courses at many of our local colleges. We will be working hard this year to further improve the quality of teaching and to ensure standards remain high across the school. This is fast becoming known as **'The Carrington Way'** and you will be hearing more about this in our communications with you. We want the very best for our students and my staff work hard day in and out to prepare and plan for what is being taught across the week, the term and the year. Of course, there will always be subjects that your young person doesn't like and may find harder than others, but our education system is broad for the right reasons, and we want each person to grow through being moved out of their comfort zone. We will be insisting that they work hard, do not disrupt learning and complete all their work right from the start. We will help students who are finding it difficult, but we will be expecting them to build their resilience and to stick at it, The Carrington Way.

In terms of the basics, full uniform is expected to be worn from Day One (I am aware that there may be a supply issue with ties – if so, please just email the Year Hub and we will provide them with a note). Lanyards will be issued from next week. Following our trial of these last year we will be issuing ID badges that can give access to certain areas of the school and will be part of the paying system for food during the school day. It is compulsory that the lanyard with ID badge be worn at all times in school, but they can be left in lockers, or put in bags or blazer pockets at the end of the day for travelling to and from school. All students will be issued with a locker over the coming few days and need to bring from home a padlock for this, to keep their items safe.

Behaviour is to be exemplary as always, both in school and in the local community. Our young people are the ambassadors of the school, and we want them to be proud to be part of our community and know how to be respectful and good citizens. We will also be expecting high attendance and excellent punctuality to lessons. Statistics indicate the very close correlation between successful outcomes at GCSE and excellent attendance. We do understand that sometimes a young person is not well enough for school, but please do encourage resilience here, when your young person may just be feeling a bit under the weather. Again, we are here to help, and the Year Hub will be at hand if you want to talk anything through or are worried.

There have been some changes to the school day with lessons now lasting 50 minutes, and the whole school enjoying morning break together, with a split lunch-time break. Please do note the slightly later finish time of 15:10 Monday to Thursday, while Fridays will finish at the earlier time of 14:20.

Timings for starting back:

Wednesday 4 September	Year 7 ONLY	11:45 – 15:10	Bring pencil cases, PE kit AND a packed lunch
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Thursday 5 September	Year 7 Year 8 – 11	08:30 – 15:00 11:30 – 15:10
Friday 6 September	All students	08:30 – 14:20

Please contact attendance@carringtonschool.org if your young person is unable to attend or unwell.

On Friday afternoon we will be holding our Clubfest where stalls will be set up to showcase the range of activities available as part of our Enrichment Programme. We expect **all students at KS3** to sign up and participate in at least one enrichment activity each week. It is a great way to learn new skills or improve talents as well as getting to know a wider range of students and staff across the school. Registers will be taken weekly so we can monitor attendance.

As we start the new term, we are welcoming some new staff to the team, who I will introduce to you in my first “Headlines” news at the end of next week, along with a round-up of the exciting events from the final part of last term including Sports Day and our Culture & Challenge Days. Until then, here’s to a really great start to the new academic year 2024-2025!

Best wishes

Miss K Oakley
Headteacher

