

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are well. We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your child (or children!) in September, and have been busy planning what the first few days of terms will look like for them.

Term starts for students on Thursday 4th September. We would like all of our new students—together with the younger returning students—to arrive at school between 8.00 and 8.35am as usual, where they will be greeted by myself and other members of staff before meeting their personal tutor. They will spend the morning getting to know their fellow students and the school, and getting their IT access set up. Lessons will commence in the afternoon, although of course at this stage these too will be very much introductory sessions as students and teachers get to know one another. School will end at the usual time of 4pm.

Students may find it reassuring to know that we take a gradual approach to homework in the first couple of weeks, especially for Year 7. We recognise that many students are getting used to new routines and may be travelling further each day than they are used to. We are—always—keen to prioritise student wellbeing to enable them to learn at their best, and so allow time for those new routines to settle before putting on any added pressure after a long summer's break.

Soon after the start of term you will receive a phone call from your child's personal tutor, who will be keen to introduce themselves to you, to share any observations about your child's first few days with us, and to answer any questions you may have at that stage. They will then be your main point of contact with the school throughout the year and will be happy to discuss your child's pastoral needs or academic progress at any time. Personal tutors meet with students on an individual basis at regular intervals and will be keen to get to know them for who they are to ensure that we give them the benefit of everything d'Overbroeck's has to offer.

I would also like to invite you to join us on Thursday 11th September for our Families' welcome event and information evening. This will take place from straight after school for Years 7-9, and later in the evening for Year 10. Further details will be sent when term begins in September.

I am really looking forward to welcoming our new students as members of our school, and to working with you as parents to give them an outstanding experience throughout their time with us.

With best wishes,

Nick Haines

Headteacher