



18 August 2021

Dear Colleague,

I hope that you have enjoyed a well deserved break and are feeling re-charged and ready for the new academic year. The new term will be even more busy than normal with year 8 induction and testing programmes in place from 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Unsurprisingly, we have not yet been provided with the updated Covid 19 guidance for schools, so, as a result, we may need to revisit our staff development programme if we are not able to host large face to face meetings. The good news is that class bubbles are likely to be relaxed meaning that all pupils can be taught in the correct subject room and teachers can return to some sort of normality once again.

The school year begins on a very sad note after the death of our good friend and former colleague Alistair Tinney. It was heart-warming to see so many members of staff at his funeral and I know that his family cherished the love and support shown by his colleagues and pupils. Alistair will be greatly missed by everyone who was lucky enough to know him. I have no doubt that some of you may have difficult days in work as a result of losing Alistair, so if you need support or just someone to talk to, please let me know.

The new term will see a number of teachers join our permanent staff team: Kirsty McCollum (HOD Home Economics), Warren Taylor (ICT), Emma Smallwoods (LS), Stephen Campbell (behaviour support), Olivia Goodman (music), Elaine McBride (science and HE), Carolyn Moore (HE) and Michelle Bradley (PE). Warren Taylor will join us in late October as his school is not in a position to release him.

As well as a number of temporary teachers continuing with us in 2021/22, a number of new temporary teachers will also join us in August: Shanie Raz (English and drama), Jonathan Sellick (English and drama); Shania Davis (music), Anna Kindlon (maths), Holly Miller (science), Laura Henderson (geography) and Peter Fryer (modern languages). It is clear to see that our staffing profile continues to change rapidly and we must keep this in mind as we ensure high standards continue to be set.

I have enclosed a summary of INSET we plan to run on the first week back. This may be subject to some change when the DE Covid 19 guidance is published.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Allen'.

Michael Allen