

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,



I hope you and your family have had a relaxing and restful summer break.

At the start of this new academic year, the pastoral leadership for Year 8 has now passed from Mrs Kneen to Mr Deakin. After a full hand over by Mrs Kneen, myself and the new tutor team will be the main point of contact for your son or daughter in regards to their pastoral care at CRHS. We are very much looking forward to getting to know your son or daughter and working with you over the next four years to support your child's educational journey through Castle Rushen.

The transition from Year 7 to Year 8 also sees with it a new team of tutors. I am delighted that Mr Baker will continue with his tutor group from Year 7 into Year 8. The new tutor team for Year 8 comprises of Mrs Burger (8MXB), Mr Caldwell (8CRC), Miss Davies (8LD), Mr Duggan (8TOD) and Mr Mann (8RDM). All of these colleagues bring a range of different strengths to the tutor team and I am confident that your son or daughter will be fully supported in all aspects of their school life. Students will have spent the first full week back with their new tutors and I am sure that tutors will get to know students well over the coming weeks and months.

At the very start of the academic year, I wanted to make you aware of some of the key dates for Year 8 students.

- HPV Vaccinations- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020
- First assessment tracking- November 2020
- Second assessment tracking- February 2021
- Year 8 Parents Evening- Monday 19th April 2021
- Year 8 annual report- July 2021

In Year 8, our students will not be learning through Quest in the same way they did in Year 7. Students in Year 8 will have discreet Science, History, Geography, ICT and RE lessons and these are clearly indicated on students' timetables. Students will be taking a new course in Year 8 called 'Quest Elements', where we will focus on making connections across the different subject areas and the development of skills. This course will now run for two timetabled lessons per week.

At the start of this academic year, CRHS is fully phone free for KS3 and KS4 students. This has proved to be beneficial, with teachers reporting better levels of concentration and enhanced social interaction between students, without the distractions associated with social media. Exactly the same rules will apply from this September and we once again are asking for your support in reminding students that mobile phones should not be needed or visible during the school day. Our mobile phone policy is available via the school website for any parents who wish to review it. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your son/daughter is reminded of our stance as we return to school in September.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's tutor at school if you wish to discuss your child's progress.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M. Deakin'.

Mr G Deakin  
Head of Year 8