

July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another school year has flown by and I'm proud to say that once again our students have had a very successful year, dedicating themselves to progress in both academic and extracurricular activities. In fact, even in the last few days of this year, we are very busy and there is still a lot on offer to our young people. As we look ahead to the holidays and then preparation for the new school year, it seems timely to share some updates and some reminders.

School Vision

We have reviewed and updated the overall aims as a school, and, after input from staff, students and governors, we remain committed to providing a **broad education** to enable our students to have the broadest horizons possible on leaving school. Our values remain **Care, Quality and Opportunity**. Our curriculum delivery will focus on academic knowledge and understanding (**head**), while still balancing our aim of educating positive and empathetic young people (**heart**) who leave us with the skills (**hands**) they need for the **journey** beyond CRHS. We are keen to strengthen our links with ex-students so please get in touch via CRHSEnquiries@sch.im if you or a family member once went to CRHS and you have a positive story to tell about your **head, heart and hands** since you left the school.

New School Day

From September, the school day will look a little different.

This year we took the decision to review the school day timings. My thanks to those parents who took part in the consultation either via the parent governor and those who came to the face-to-face consultation we held in the Spring.

The new school day aims to strike a fair balance in response to the feedback received from students, parents and staff, whilst ensuring that students' learning time is not adversely affected. The key changes are:

- School will start at **8.55am** and finish at **3.25pm**.
- Registration will be reduced by 5 minutes from 25 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Breaktime will remain at 15 minutes.
- Lunchtime will be reduced from 1 hour to 55 minutes.
- Lesson 5, which has always been 55 minutes, is now reduced to 50 minutes to bring it in line with all other lessons.

Bus Vannin is having its own consultation at present but has confirmed that the changes to the school day can be accommodated.

Expectations

In September we will be focusing on high expectations of **attendance, equipment and uniform**. Whole school attendance figures have not yet returned to pre-covid levels. Of particular concern are the poor attendance figures for older students; this is a worry as the data shows us that students whose

attendance drops below 95% are far more likely to under-perform in the ongoing assessments we run, and ultimately in the external exams.

School **uniform** is key to establishing a purposeful mindset for school. Following uniform expectations helps our students succeed and we would urge parents to look carefully at our uniform policy ([Uniform Policy](#)) when purchasing items for September.

- Blazers must be worn.
- Footwear should be black.
- A school tie must be worn.
- Jumpers, if desired, must be navy blue and unbranded. Jumpers are to be worn in addition to, not instead of, a blazer. Please note that hoodies must not be worn.

We would also like to remind you that we expect our students to come to school each day with basic **equipment**:

- pencil case containing pens, pencils, a ruler, rubber and a calculator
- planner
- exercise books
- other materials for the day's lessons
- PE kit when required
- School bag

Exam Results Days

Our Year 11 and 13 students will be looking forward to their examination results days in August. Key staff will be in school on **15th August** for the **A level results** as well as **GCSE results day** on **22nd August** and **Sixth Form Signing On Day** on **23rd August**. Parents of students expecting examination results have had more detailed communication about these days and the support we offer over the summer.

Staff

We will be saying goodbye to some of our teachers at the end of this term as their career journeys take them to pastures new and will introduce you to our new recruits in our September letter. Mr Kay has already taken up a new post in the central DESC team but continued his language teaching role until the end of this term. We have been very grateful for his support and wish him well in his new role.

We say goodbye to three key members of staff within our specialist provision centre (SPC) who are retiring: Mrs Tyley, who has led the SPC for a number of years; her colleague and second in command, Mrs Irvine; and Mrs Cannan, who is our longest-serving member of staff, having been with the school since 1999. This means it will be a new SPC lead team from September. In our learning support area, Mrs Barlow is retiring at the end of this term. Maxine has been one of the principal education officers in Skills Centres 1 and 2 for over 20 years. All four colleagues, whose long service at the school means they have helped so many young people, will be greatly missed by all the students and families they have supported so diligently over the years.

Mrs Miller has contributed greatly to the school since starting in 2006, in her PE role and also as Head of Year and more recently in safeguarding. She has secured a pastoral role in one of our sister schools and will be greatly missed. Mr Deakin will step into the lead for our school safeguarding. We will also

be sorry to bid farewell to Mrs Mason who is venturing into the unknown with a change of career path. We wish her all the very best. Miss Leece has decided to take a break from teaching Geography in order to travel the world – we are all very jealous! Mrs Phibbs is also travelling – although only as far as her homeland of Ireland. Mr Crebbin, who has been an education support officer in Skills Centre 1, is leaving the island for the bright lights of London. Finally, we bid farewell to Dr Holmes, who is taking a well-earned retirement. We would like to thank each and every one of them and wish them a happy future. Mrs Dawson will move from being Head of Year 7 to a different role as our Subject Team Leader for Science. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work; every year group we have in school next year will have been guided through their first year at CRHS by Mrs Dawson. We are currently recruiting for her replacement. Miss Libreri will lead Year 8, Mrs Manson will move up with her current year group to Year 9, Mr Davies will do likewise with Year 10 and Mr Baker takes his year group into the ‘home straight’ of Year 11. Miss Crispe will be our new Head of Sixth Form, supported by Miss Metcalfe.

Thank you

Lastly, I would like to thank the staff and you, the parents, for all your support and encouragement which has produced and enabled the many academic, sporting, musical, dramatic, pastoral and artistic highlights we have seen this year. I was particularly proud that we have once again excelled in the inter-school sports arena here on island; some results that must be mentioned are CRHS girls bringing home all Hockey trophies, the Senior girls’ teams doing the ‘treble’ and winning the Hockey, Netball and Football senior shields - which has never been done before - and Year 10 girls also doing the full sweep and winning the Hockey, Netball, Football, Rounders and Athletics. The boys also performed admirably across the year, bringing home silverware in athletics, rugby, football and cricket. Memorable victories came in the Year 10 rugby and cricket finals, the Year 9 athletics victory, the Year 8 Football Shield success and lastly the Year 7 Rugby Festival win.

Our school production of ‘Legally Blonde’, showcased a huge range of CRHS talent and played to packed audiences – put a note in your calendar to order tickets quickly for next year’s offering, Sister Act. Our other creative subjects, Art and Textiles and Music, have also shared their summer showcases to huge acclaim and the number of students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award at the school continues to grow, so much so that CRHS accounted for the majority of Gold Awards earned by Manx students last year. It is a credit to our students and teachers that so many can find a passion from our broad offer and pursue it.

End of Term

The last day of term is a non-uniform day in aid of [Isle of Man Breast Care](#), we are suggesting a £1 donation. School closes at 3.45pm on Friday 19th July with all year groups expected to return on Wednesday 4th September for the new 8.55am start time.

It just remains for me to wish you a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Keith Winstanley
Headteacher