



Tuesday, 18th April 2023

Dear Parents,

As you and your sons prepare for their return to school for the Trinity term, I hope the following updates and more general reminders are useful. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

New pupils

On behalf of the whole More House community, I extend a very warm welcome to those pupils newly joining us this week. We look forward to getting to know those boys and their families, and encourage you to ask anyone if you have any queries. School staff and other parents will be very happy to assist.

Pupils' return

School begins at 8.30am tomorrow morning. Pupils may arrive at school from 8.10am on any school day. Please remember that the car-parks and playgrounds are not supervised before this point.

On any day, Pupils arriving after 8.35am should only be dropped-off at the Main Reception car-park, as the pedestrian gate from the Lower Car-park will be locked closed after this time, when the supervising member of staff leaves the area. Pupils arriving at this time or later must sign-in at the Main Reception front-desk so that we can be certain of their safe arrival.

Boarders are invited to return this evening, from 6.30pm onwards.

Reporting absence

If your son will be absent, please do not email your son's tutor, as they may not read the email in time.

If reporting your son's unexpected absence, please email absence@morehouseschool.co.uk, or telephone the Main Reception number, 01252 792303, to leave a message on the absence voicemail facility, before the start of the school day.

Any planned absence, e.g., for a medical appointment, must be authorised in advance. Please email such requests to absence@morehouseschool.co.uk, and it is helpful if you also copy in your son's form-tutor.

Timetable

This week is a Week B, and so this first Friday of term is a flexi-Friday.

Homework

The usual schedule of homework-set will not re-start until Monday (24th April). However, some teachers, and especially those with examination-classes, are likely to set independent study tasks in advance of this.

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Uniform

Please take a moment to remind yourself and your son of the school uniform guidance, published on the website: [More House School - Uniform](#). I am grateful to parents for their support in checking with their son that he is wearing school uniform before travelling to school. Please remind him that hooded-tops are not permitted in school, other than for boarders outside of the school day hours.

Whole-school photograph

We were incredibly fortunate on the final day of the Lent term to assemble the entire school on the specially-built staging, and take the photograph in the seconds before the first drops fell, heralding a significant rain-storm immediately prior to the live-streamed Easter service. It was wonderful to be joined online by so many parents and grandparents, but I apologise for the rather damp appearance of some pupils caught in the precipitation as they walked to the sports-hall for the service. We look forward to receiving the proof of the photograph which we will then be able to share with all families.

Boarding Newsletter

We are please to share with you the latest edition of the Boarding Newsletter, please do have a look through and see the amazing and wonderful activities the Boarders experience last term. [Boarding Newsletter - Lent 2, 2023](#).

Ofsted

Disappointingly, I am still awaiting the publication of our Ofsted reports from the two inspections – School and Residential Boarding – which took place in the second week of March. I am surprised by the delay and am chasing Ofsted. I hope that these will be available in the very near future, and I look forward to sharing them with you.

Travelling to and from school

For drivers, please be warned about the perilous state of some of the local roads. There are especially vicious pot-holes in the carriageways of The Long Road from Rowledge and Fifield Lane. There is another grim one immediately outside our lower entrance, at the bottom of Moons Hill. In some cases, these pot-holes are hidden by water, but definitely have the potential to damage tyres if hit at any pace.

Please also support our school-wide endeavour to show consideration and kindness towards those residents neighbouring the school. Please avoid ever waiting across or in their driveways, or parking inconveniently for their access. Please note that, owing to the unsafe nature of the country lanes around the school, it is not safe to collect or drop-off pupils on the side of the road, outside of the school's site. Please always ensure pupils meet or leave their vehicles within the school's car-parks. I recognise just how challenging traffic and parking can be, and thank drivers for their understanding and patience, and for placing the safety of all people as the top priority.

If your son uses the trains to commute to and from school, or the school's coach service to or from the railway station in Farnham, please have a conversation with him, reminding him of the trust placed in him and expectations on conduct. In particular, please remind him of the importance of not pushing or demonstrating impatience if waiting to board, or when disembarking the coach, being very careful of the surrounds, such as the other vehicles and pedestrians moving outside the railway station. In the rare occurrence that a pupil's behaviour gives cause for concern, including in his conduct towards other pupils, the school may withdraw access to the coach service.

End of the school day

A reminder of the timings and arrangements follows.

On Mondays to Thursdays inclusive:

- pupils in years Four to Eight will be released from their classrooms at 4.15pm;
- pupils in Year Nine or older will be released from their classrooms at 4.20pm.

Please note the different arrangement for Friday afternoons, detailed below.

After 4.10pm (4pm on Fridays) but not before, please, parents collecting pupils may, if they wish, ascend the slope or steps from the playground to wait along the post and rail fencing of the roadway above the playground. However, for Safeguarding reasons, please do not venture further into the campus, unless accompanied by a member of the staff.

As soon as you have met your son, please depart immediately, in order to free space for other vehicles entering the site.

On Fridays, we operate a staggered collection-time system in order to reduce traffic problems. On Fridays only, pupils may be collected at the following times, dependent upon their age:

- Years 4, 5 & 6 4pm (following afternoon registration)
- Years 7 & 8 4.10pm
- Year 9 & 10 4.15pm
- Year 11 & Sixth Form 4.20pm

Boys eligible for the earlier collection time, but sharing transport with a pupil who is to be collected at 4.20pm, must remain with their form-tutors until 4.20pm, and then leave at the later time to meet their transport.

Public examinations

Please be aware that we are shortly entering a long season of public examinations. This can be a particularly anxious period for many older pupils, but can also present some change to routine for younger pupils, where assembly locations change, some lesson locations are moved, or some areas of the school are designated as areas of low-noise. We wish, for all pupils sitting final assessments this term, the best possible fortune and outcomes.

Communicating with school

Teaching, LDC and boarding staff will expect to respond to parent emails within two full working days during school term time, although before the end of the next working day following the initial contact is most usual. Whilst this expresses our usual expectation and aims, factors including part-time working, staff absence, training, response to an emergency situation and the need to cover others' duties, can make such timeframe impossible to ensure always.

Whilst appreciating these pressures on school staff, the school still strongly encourages parents to contact their son's tutor with any query or concern. But, wherever a communication is time-critical, parents are strongly advised not to rely on email, but instead to telephone the school office staff using the main switchboard number: 01252 792303. The school office is manned between the hours of 8am and 5.30pm on weekdays during term-time, and usually between 9am and 4pm, weekdays during school holiday periods.

Boarding parents are provided with out-of-hours telephone numbers for the duty boarding staff.

Reports

Parents of pupils in Year Eleven or in the Upper Sixth should have received notification early in the Easter holidays that their son's annual school report was available to view or download from the Parent Portal.

For pupils in years Eight or Nine, parents will be able to access their son's annual report in advance of their upcoming non-core Options evenings. Parents will be notified when their sons' reports are available.

For pupils in all other year groups, annual reports will be published at the close of the academic year.

Important dates

Coronation bank-holiday – Monday, 8th May. Please remember that school will remain closed on that day, reopening to boarders after 6.30pm that evening, and to day-boys on the morning of Tuesday, 9th May, at the usual time.

Sports Day, involving all pupils in years Four to Ten inclusive, is scheduled for Friday, 26th May. Parents and other close relatives are warmly invited to join us for this event.

Founder's Day is on Saturday morning, the 8th of July. All pupils are required to be in attendance, including any pupils leaving our Upper Sixth or Year Eleven this summer. Again, it is hoped that parents will join us for this most important and celebratory school tradition.

Finally

It is always with sadness that I recognise that for some in our school community, this will be their final term at More House. I extend to those pupils and families special thought, and thank you for your partnership and support over the duration of your journey. I hope you will enjoy these remaining weeks, and leave with very happy memories.

My colleagues and I look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school, and to the exciting events ahead of us.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Hetherington
Headmaster