



# Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Principal: Mr E Hodges



Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am writing to update you on our progress this term and look ahead a little to Term 2. Firstly, I would like to thank both parents and pupils for their help and support this term. We have had to operate in a range of ways over the last two months which would have been impossible to imagine just a year ago. We are very grateful for the way that parents have backed us up as a school and for their messages of support when they have been received. In addition to this the pupils have been magnificent in the way they have adapted to the new methods of working, particularly as we have changed and adapted them as the term has progressed. I would particularly like to commend Year 13 who have suffered the most disruption, but have participated superbly in their online lessons and have gone about things with a quiet calm and determination which has been great to see.

As advertised, this week has seen us alter our operating pattern. Whilst maintaining the year group bubbles we have allowed more movement than before. Just like the new arrangements in September this has taken a bit of getting used to, but overall we are very happy with the way that it has gone. Pupils have observed the one-way systems very well, movement around the site has been good and the most challenging aspect, the entry to and exit from classroom blocks, whilst needing a bit of tweaking, has also been effective.

We are satisfied that these new arrangements are at least as safe as the model we were operating previously and enable us to offer a much better experience and standard of education. As such we will be continuing with this model after half term. It will be amended slightly to separate registration and period one. To reflect this, pupils will receive new timetables, but please share with your sons/daughters that on Monday 2nd November they should attend their form room at 8.25, not their period 1 classroom.

All other arrangements remain the same. I would continue to ask for parents' support in encouraging their children not to crowd outside the school or local shops either before or after the school day. Whilst we have staff who are on duty, it would help them if pupils come directly into school or go directly home after school. I would also ask parents to emphasise the importance of pupils wearing masks on public transport. This has largely been adhered to, but it is important that this continues. I would also ask parents to restock those essential items we are asking all pupils to have with them, namely hand sanitizer and face masks. These will continue to be key items throughout Term 2. Pupils approach to using both has been outstanding so far and this will need to continue as we move forward.

Finally, for the safety of the whole school community, I would remind parents of the importance of abiding by government guidelines, both with regards to when to get tested and also when households need to isolate themselves due to a family member having symptoms or waiting for a test result. Please do not send your child to school if they or anyone in their household has symptoms, please follow the national guidance and if you are at all unsure contact the school.

**Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School**

Maidstone Road • Rochester • Kent ME1 3EL

Tel: 01634 844008 • Fax: 01634 818303 • E-Mail: [office@sjwms.org.uk](mailto:office@sjwms.org.uk)

Company Registration No. 2336587

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Should your child become unwell over half term I would be grateful if you could inform the school so that we are aware of any incidents, and so that we can ensure isolation periods are fulfilled.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

E Hodges  
Headteacher