



*together we aspire,
we discover,
we excel*

Lordswood Girls' School

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Headteacher: Mrs. J. Götschel B.A, MEd.

7th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year!

Although arrangements are slightly different this year, I do hope that your child will settle back well into school and sixth form life and have an enjoyable and successful year.

I would like to enlist your support in ensuring that your child adheres to social distancing guidelines before and after school. To reduce the risk of infection, we have introduced staggered start and finish times and it is therefore crucial that these are followed. Please do not send your daughter to school more than 15 minutes before her start time and, if you are collecting her at the end of the school day, please can you collect her promptly and ensure that you yourself are maintaining the required distance.

Start time for year 8 & year 11: 8:30 am
Start time for years 7, 9, 10: 8:45 am
Finish time for year 8 & year 11: 2:45 pm
Finish time for years 7, 9, 10: 3pm

Thank you for your support in keeping the Lordswood community safe.

If your daughter wishes to have a school break or lunch, this can be ordered in advance; the food will then be brought to her base room. Some of our younger students have not been sure about whether they should order a school lunch so perhaps you could get them to record whether they need a school lunch in their planner so that they know that they need to complete an order form. The same system applies regardless of whether your child is in receipt of free school meal.

This term we welcome the following new members of staff:

- Dr L Hughes – Teacher of Science
- Mr A Mall – Site Assistant
- Ms G May – Teacher of History
- Ms A Sadka – Teacher of Mathematics
- Ms J Vesey – Lead Professional in Art

I am including in this letter a number of links which I hope you will find helpful.

The Department for Education has updated their guidance for parents and carers:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=2%20September%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

I am aware that there has been some misleading information on social media which has caused some consternation. Please refer to our risk assessments and previous letter and email with regard to what measures are in place. I am also sharing the Public Health Birmingham guidance on how suspected cases of COVID-19 should be managed:

the Public Health flowchart is on the council website at this link.

In addition, Birmingham Local Authority has obtained some resources for parents and carers which may be of interest. There is a website www.birmingham.gov.uk/love which contains links to a range of support and also has translated versions of the handouts.

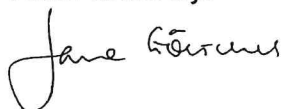
Here is the full list of the most used services and support available now:

- **Online parenting course.** We've pre-paid for every parent in Birmingham to access a [parenting course](#), worth up to £88. Access code is COMMUNITY.
- **Mental health support.** In these difficult times we have to look after our mental health:
 - For young people aged 11-25 — [Kooth](#)
 - Children and young people aged 0-25 contact Pause on Tel 0207 841 4470 or [email](#)
 - For urgent help call [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) on Tel 0300 300 0099.
- **Financial help.** If you've lost your job, or are struggling for food or rent:
 - Food, fuel or help with white goods if in crisis at [Local welfare provision](#)
 - Help with rent [Discretionary Housing Payments](#)
 - And [food banks](#) across Birmingham.
- **Domestic abuse.** For women and children affected by domestic abuse please see [guidance](#) or confidentially contact [Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid](#). For Men, please contact [Respect](#).
- **Problems with drugs or alcohol.** A new, discrete app called Staying Free is available. To speak to someone call [Change Grow Live](#).
- **Bereavement support.** It's a terrible time to lose a loved one — you can get help, call 0121 687 8010 or go online to the [Cruse](#) website.
- **Early help for families.** If anyone needs more help, then please contact one of our ten [voluntary sector local leads](#).

I look forward to seeing you in the course of this academic year; unfortunately, in the autumn term, we are unable to run any parents' meetings on site and instead we are looking to offer a virtual meeting / phone conversation. It is really lovely to have all students back in school and, working together, I hope that we can achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jane Götschel
Headteacher