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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 7 Students

At the end of our first half term, I write to share with you how positive the start to this academic year has been; students have settled well into their new school routines. We are pleased that students are working hard and are striving to meet our high expectations. Each day in school we are living out our school motto of 'Excellence through Faith, Learning and Support'.

It has been a busy half term in school. Our Year 7 students were exceptional during their Welcome Mass on St Wilfrid's Day, and it was lovely to welcome parents and carers into school. We are very proud of those students who volunteered their time during our highly successful and popular Year 6 Open Evening – visitors to our school commented on how polite, well-presented and confident the students were – well done to all involved. Breakfast clubs, Active Lunch sessions and homework clubs have returned to our daily offer and have been well attended.

Year 7 students have completed CAT4 assessments which have enabled us to identify areas of strength and focus to inform class teaching. Following the October half term break we will move the students into their teaching groups for lessons. Tutor groups will remain as they are, with your child continuing to have a tutorial session with their tutor each morning. Students allocated to classes 7L1 and 7R1 will study Mandarin Chinese as an additional language to Spanish throughout KS3. We will continue to assess students regularly throughout their time at St Wilfrid's in order to track progress, support students in their learning and review student teaching groups.

We are pleased that the change to isolation rules has meant that there are fewer students and staff absent from school. However, as the number of cases rise in the local community, this is reflected in the number of positive COVID cases reported in school. We continue to follow our COVID-19 risk assessment to minimise transmission of the virus. We would like to encourage the continued use of lateral flow tests to identify asymptomatic cases throughout the half term break and upon return to school. Additionally, we continue to encourage the wearing of face coverings, particularly in communal areas of school and on buses.

A reminder that there will be an opportunity for all parents and carers of Year 7 students to come into school to meet with key staff on Tuesday 9 November from 4.00-5.00pm. We will share further detail about this event upon our return to school.

We hope that our students have a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming them back to school on Monday 1 November.

Kind regards

Mrs D Ritchie
Acting Head of School