

28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parents and carers

Thank you for your support as we have successfully started the school year. As you can imagine, our safe return to school has required a great deal of planning and it is heartening to see everyone adapting to the new ways of working.

I wanted to write specifically to remind our highly supportive school community on the importance of excellent school attendance. Standards have risen considerably at SBL over the past three years as a direct result of excellent parental and student commitment on matters such as improving school attendance. Missing days of school can be exceptionally damaging for students. Each year we analyse the results of our students and consistently find those with lower attendance have weaker outcomes and, as a result, lower life chances and fewer choices in adult life.

Whilst we want to ensure that students and staff at school are kept safe, we also need to caution parents and carers about keeping students at home unnecessarily. We know that we are about to enter the 'cough and cold' season and this will prompt questions about when your children should come to school and when they should stay at home. We strongly advise using the NHS diagnostic tool which can be found [here](#). If your child is too ill to come to school for any non-COVID19 reason then, as always, we recommend that he/she takes bed-rest, gets better and, when he/she returns to school, your child's teachers can advise on what needs to be done to catch up.

Thank you for your support in opening our school safely - it has been a real pleasure to hear and see learning in our classrooms again. We look forward to a successful run up to the Christmas holidays in what is always a busy and critically important period of learning in any school year.

Yours faithfully



Mr S A White  
**Vice Principal**