



Our ref: AMD/zmb

15th July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I look forward to writing to you in the very near future to not only introduce myself more fully but to also lay out to you my vision for St Bernard's High School when I start my period of leadership on 1st September. Therefore, please excuse this brief communication but I thought that it was important to get this information to you as soon as possible.

From the 1st September 2021, there will no longer be lockers available for students from year 7-11 on site at the school. I recognise that this will be a culture shift but please be assured that this decision has not been taken lightly.

As you know, St Bernard's is a lovely, compact site but it means that as we grow, space becomes a premium. It is important that all our spaces are devoted to our students to ensure that they have the best teaching, learning, social and spiritual environment that we can provide. The removal of lockers will not only enable us to expand the study space available to our sixth form students, it will also allow us to create additional teaching spaces both for small group and whole class teaching. In addition, we frequently interrupt the duties of our caretaking staff to make trips to unlock locker rooms, taking them away daily from site maintenance work. Therefore, given the impact on both teaching and learning and staff, I believe that this decision will be beneficial in the long term for all at St Bernard's.

As a result, your child will be required to keep their bags (and coats when needed) with them. Coats will be placed on the back of chairs (or on coat hooks where teaching space allows) and bags will be placed under students' desks. Our new timetable in September where your child will have 3 lessons each day should help to reduce the amount carried in her bag.

Finally, a reminder of the school's policy on mobile phones and other electronic devices. Mobile phones and other electronic devices should not be seen or heard in school as they will be liable to confiscation unless a member of staff has granted permission for use. Please ensure that if your child has a mobile phone to support journeys to and from school, they must be in bags and always switched off during their time on the school site.

My thanks for your support and understanding in advance.

Warm Regards

Allison Moise-Dixon
Headteacher, September 2021