



CORNELIUS  
VERMUYDEN  
SCHOOL

*Respect. Resilience. Responsibility*

August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I do hope that you are enjoying the summer holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students on the many successes that they achieved last year during difficult circumstances for us all. You will have a chance to read about these in our newsletter, on Twitter and on the website. So far this summer the hard work undertaken by students last year has been rewarded with some excellent GCSE results from our Year 11 students following the teacher assessed grades process.

I am also writing to confirm arrangements for the start of the new academic year and to provide you with information that may help in preparing for the return to school.

### Start of Term Arrangements

In line with DfE advice, we will stagger the first two days of term to ensure all students have a clear understanding of how the school will operate and the new systems that have been implemented. This will also include on-site lateral flow testing.

Wednesday 1 September is a non-pupil/staff training day, however, as outlined in the start of term letter (9 July), Year 11 and Year 7 students will be on site at their allotted times for their lateral flow testing\*.

Year 11 (8.00 am – 9.30 am) – students to wear normal/casual clothing.

Year 7 (10.30 am – 1.30 pm) – students to wear normal/casual clothing.

\*Testing is encouraged for the safety of all, but is not mandatory.

Following a negative result, Year 11 & 7 students can start their formal face to face interactions with staff the next day.

Year 8, 9 and 10 students should remain at home.

Thursday 2 September – Years 7 & 11 ONLY for a normal school day. All students should be on site between 7.50 am and 8.05 am. Any student who arrives after 8.05 am will be marked as late.

Cornelius Vermuyden School | Dinant Avenue | Canvey Island | Essex | SS8 9QS  
Tel: (01268) 685011 | Fax: (01268) 510290 | Email: [admin@corver.rnple.co.uk](mailto:admin@corver.rnple.co.uk) | [www.corneliusvermuyden.com](http://www.corneliusvermuyden.com)  
Headteacher: Mr I Hockey BA(Hons) MSc NPQH

Cornelius Vermuyden School is a Limited Company, registered in England and Wales under Company Number 8667123  
Registered Office: Cornelius Vermuyden School | Dinant Avenue | Canvey Island | Essex | SS8 9QS Cornelius Vermuyden School is an exempt Charity under the Charities Act 2011



As outlined in the start of term letter (9 July), Year 10, Year 9 and Year 8 students will be on site at their allotted times for their lateral flow testing\*.

Year 10 (8.15 am – 9.45 am) – students to wear their normal/casual clothing.

Year 9 (10.00 am – 11.30 pm) – students to wear their normal/casual clothing.

Year 8 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm) – students to wear their normal/casual clothing.

\*Testing is encouraged for the safety of all, but is not mandatory.

### Friday 3 September

Normal lessons for ALL students.

### **Intervention**

#### *Year 11*

Departments will be offering extra after school sessions throughout the year to support Year 11 students as they head towards their exams. These will be held between 2.10 pm and 3.10 pm. All students will be welcome to attend these sessions, however students that are not making the required progress towards their target grades will be specifically targeted and expected to attend. It is crucial in Year 11 that students take all opportunities to attend any extra sessions offered – be it in term time or in their holidays – so that they are fully confident and on track for success in their GCSE exams.

It is also fully recommended that where coursework is part of the subject, this is completed to the highest possible standard as early as possible so that students can revise towards their exams with as much focus as possible. A successful Year 11 student is organised and in control of their workload, therefore the school fully recommends all students have revision timetables in place for the start of the new academic year. If students need support with this, please do not hesitate to see Ms Marsden as early as possible in September 2021.

### **Enrichment**

The school intends to run an extensive enrichment programme, where every subject offers an after-school club. The sessions will be advertised in September 2021 on the school's website. I would encourage all students to take part in the enrichment programme where possible and, where students have a particular interest or passion, support the leadership of an enrichment club with the teacher.

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From the start of term, the following timetable will commence: -

### Years 7, 10 and 11

7.50 am – 8.00 am	Arrive
8.05 am	Morning Address
8.10 am – 9. 10 am	Period 1
9.10 am – 10.10 am	Period 2
10.10 am – 10.30 am	BREAK 1 (Year 7 students begin BREAK 1 at 10.00 am)
10.30 am – 11.30 am	Period 3
11.30 am – 12.30 pm	Period 4
12.30 pm – 12.50 pm	Years 7 and 10 LUNCH Year 11 TUTOR
12.50 pm – 1.10 pm	Years 7 and 10 TUTOR Year 11 LUNCH
1.10 pm – 2.10 pm	Period 5

### Years 8 and 9

7.50 am – 8 am	Arrive
8.05 am	Morning Address
8.10 am – 9. 10 am	Period 1
9.10 am – 10.10 am	Period 2
10.10 am – 10.30 am	TUTOR
10.30 am – 10.50 am	BREAK 1
10.50 am – 11.50 am	Period 3
11.50 am – 12. 50 pm	Period 4
12.50 pm – 1.10 pm	LUNCH
1.10 pm – 2.10 pm	Period 5

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## Uniform and Jewellery

The wearing of professional school uniform prepares our students for their future career. In many lines of work, corporate and formal attires are required. It is essential that all students are aware of the school's expectations and parents support these fully. Cornelius Vermuyden staff will adopt a zero-tolerance approach to non-compliance to the school uniform.

### The following items of uniform must be worn:-

- ✓ Black blazer with school logo.
- ✓ Plain black ankle-length trousers suitable for business wear.
- ✓ Skirts must be black and pleated and no more than 5 cms above or below the knee. Skirts should not be rolled at the waist at any time.
- ✓ White shirt, which must be tucked in at all times with the top button fastened.
- ✓ Black jumper with gold v-neck (if required; no other jumper should be worn).
- ✓ School tie, fastened correctly with the logo showing.
- ✓ Plain black ankle-length socks **or** neutral or black tights (patterned tights are not permitted). Leggings should not be worn, even when combined with socks.
- ✓ Plain black shoes, office-style (no white soles or trim).
- ✓ An outdoor weatherproof coat can be worn outside of the school building.
- ✓ In cold weather, students can wear hats and scarves outside of the school building; these should be plain in colour.

### The following items of clothing are not permitted:-

- ✗ Jeans, tight-fitting trousers, flared-trousers and leggings.
- ✗ Trousers with zipped pockets and zips for decoration.
- ✗ Trainers, trainer-style shoes or sports-branded shoes, Creatives, Converse trainers, Vans, canvas pumps, multi-coloured shoes or boots above the ankle. **Shoes should be plain black leather.**
- ✗ We do not allow students to wear hooded tops or sweatshirts. We also do not allow denim or leather jackets.
- ✗ Baseball caps, scarves and hats with football logos.

## Jewellery and Make Up

- ✓ One single stud in each ear is permitted; the stud must be worn in the lower part of the earlobe.
- ✓ No other jewellery is allowed.
- ✓ Inexpensive watches are allowed. This does not include Smartwatches, which are not allowed.

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- ✓ Students are not permitted to use unnatural coloured hair dye, including coloured highlights or 'dipping'.
- ✓ If hair extensions are worn, no beading is permitted. Extensions must also be in a colour that naturally blends with the hair.

**Please be aware of the following in relation to jewellery and make-up:-**

- ✓ Students wearing studs in their ears other than in their lobes will be expected to remove them.
- ✓ Other body piercings are not permitted.
- ✓ We do not permit visible body art.
- ✓ Coloured nail varnish is not allowed. This includes acrylic, gel overlays, shellac and other types of nail varnish.
- ✓ Students are not allowed to wear fake nails or false eyelashes to school. This includes fake nails and false eyelashes that have been cut down.
- ✓ Make up should not be worn.
- ✓ Fake tan should not be worn.

PENNUK in Benfleet is the school's uniform provider and is able to offer the complete range of uniform and sports equipment. Their contact details are:- PENNUK, 15-17 Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5PN, telephone: 01268 751724; email [sales@pennuk.com](mailto:sales@pennuk.com); website: <https://www.pennuk.com>. All items of uniform should be clearly marked with the name of the student.

**Prohibited items of clothing and jewellery will be confiscated and must then be collected by the parent/carer. Where a student fails to meet the agreed policy and the issue cannot be resolved immediately, they will not be permitted to attend their normal lessons. Instead, alternative on-site arrangements will be implemented to allow students to complete their work until the uniform issues have been resolved and a meeting with the parent/carer has taken place.** This consistent approach will be applied to all students, across all year groups. Whilst we appreciate notes from parents/carers informing the school of uniform issues, the only circumstance where there will be any variation on this matter will be in cases where a medical letter is provided by a GP.

**If you are in any doubt, please refer to the uniform policy on the school's website, or contact the school directly, before purchasing items of uniform.**

**Mobile 'Phones**

The school fully understands that in today's society parents like their child to have access to a mobile device for communication. The school's position, however, is a very straight forward one - no mobile

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'phone should be visible from the moment a student enters the front gate until the moment they exit the front gate. Staff have been clearly instructed not to search for them, but to act consistently when devices are visible. If a student wishes to bring a 'phone into school, it should be switched off and placed within their bag before they enter the school site. It must remain off for the duration of the school day and only be switched back on once the student has left the school site. Any student seen with a mobile 'phone will have it confiscated and parents will need to collect it from the school office. Mobile 'phones will NOT be returned to students.

Parents should be reassured that when students need to make an urgent 'phone call, they can request to do so at Pupil Services or the main Reception. Our staff will assess the urgency of the call. Parents can also contact their children through Pupil Services or the main Reception.

The school's insurance policy does not cover damage, loss or theft of 'phones, bikes or other items.

### **Punctuality**

I politely remind all stakeholders that punctuality is key. Mr O'Shaughnessy and Mrs Gayda will be on the front door every morning. Any student that is late on three or more occasions will be placed in isolation for the remainder of that day. The school has high standards and expects parents/carers to support the school fully.

### **STARS and Achievement Cards**

Our Classroom Expectations common language is through the acronym STARS:

- Sit-Up Straight
- Track the Lesson
- Ask and Answer Questions Politely
- Resourced for Lesson
- Silence as a Default

The quality of being Resourced for Lesson is important to ensure that students are 'ready to learn'. We welcome your support in ensuring that your child comes to school every day with the required equipment. If your child forgets any of this equipment, then they will be issued equipment during the morning address. After this point, if they are missing their lesson resources, then the student's Achievement Card will be signed.

Every student must make sure that they bring the correct equipment to school and to every lesson. The equipment required is as follows:-

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- Two Black/blue pens
- Pencil
- Pencil Eraser
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Green pen
- Scientific Calculator
- Pencil Case

Students receive a weekly achievement card so that we can celebrate their success. This must be on them at all times in school.

## **Homework**

As a school, we strongly believe that homework is an integral part of a student's learning journey. Learning should take place in and outside of the classroom and provide students with the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skill set. Homework should consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning experiences.

Having the responsibility of needing to meet deadlines promotes self-discipline, an attribute which will impact on schoolwork and beyond. All students will be expected to check Show My Homework daily for homework that has been issued in class. All parents and carers have access to Show My Homework so that you can see the homework set by the school and support your child with managing their work load. Any issues with homework should be referred to the class teacher in the first instance.

Students in Years 7 – 9 will use their knowledge organiser daily to recall essential information from all of their taught subjects. All work will be completed in their self-quizzing book. Students will also complete 45 minutes of Hegarty Maths weekly and 30 minutes of extended writing in English.

Students in Years 10 and 11 will receive homework from every subject each week. Each piece of homework should take between 1 hour to 1 and a half hours.

## **Attendance**

Since its introduction in 2009, the school has been using an attendance tracker system to clearly inform parents about their child's attendance. The target attendance for each student next year is 100% and we hope that, through the school/home partnership, we can help every student achieve this target. Parents are requested to inform the school of any absence so that the school's records are kept up to date. They will need to provide a letter on their child's return to school to confirm the reason for their child's absence.

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Please be aware that legislation states that term time holidays can only be authorised at the discretion of the Headteacher under exceptional circumstances. Any term time holidays which are deemed not to be 'exceptional' will result in a penalty notice from the Local Authority.

I would like to remind parents of the need to inform your child's Head of Year of any change in personal details.

The school has employed two Attendance Ambassadors who will complete home visits on a daily basis to continue to drive standards.

### **School Trips**

A polite reminder that a student who has previously been formally excluded will not be permitted to attend any residential or school trip, unless directly authorised by a senior member of staff. Please reinforce the consequences of serious negative behaviour with your child.

### **School Meals**

Cornelius Vermuyden has gone to great lengths to improve the meals that we offer. Our in-house catering service offers a healthy, varied and exciting menu and is staffed by an innovative and creative team, led by a very experienced Catering Manager. They produce excellent food, using fresh ingredients sourced locally where possible, which is freshly cooked on-site.

If you are on a low income you may be entitled to free school meals for your child. If you would like to apply, please contact Essex County Council, who will be able to provide you with further details (website [www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards](http://www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards); telephone 0845 6032200; email [educationawards@essex.gov.uk](mailto:educationawards@essex.gov.uk)).

### **Cornelius News and Website**

For those of you with internet access, we would encourage you to look at the school's website. The website provides easy access for information about the school (e.g. policies, staff, curriculum, newsletters, etc.) and the activities that take place. The web address is: [www.corneliusvermuyden.com](http://www.corneliusvermuyden.com).

The school also has a Twitter account under the name of @CorVermuyden. Our Twitter account is updated regularly and includes key events from the school day, as well as important notifications and messages.

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## Parents' Forum

We would like to continue to engage more with parents to examine ways that we can improve on our present practices and procedures regarding communications between home and school. We already have acted on feedback where there has been a breakdown in communication. Our website is now designed to provide both parents and students with much more relevant and more easily accessible information about the school.

Last year, we formed a small group of interested parents to examine the issues of communication, homework and other school issues from their perspectives in order to secure future improvements. This was very successful, and I would like to thank all the parents who gave up their free time to meet and discuss school issues. I would like to continue with this group and recruit new parents. If you feel that you are able to contribute to this group or would like to nominate someone who could be useful, then please contact Mr Hibben (Assistant Headteacher).

## Dates For Your Diary

Please find attached a list of holiday dates and training days. Any in-year changes will be notified via the school's website.

## Contacting the School

If you wish to contact the school, please dial 01268 685011 and follow the instructions, holding to speak to reception. The school will issue a directory of staff extension numbers early in the new term. Furthermore, general enquiries can be made via [admin@corver.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:admin@corver.rmplc.co.uk)

Additionally, can I remind parents/carers that no one will be permitted onto the school site without an appointment. I politely request that parents/carers acknowledge this request to prevent the front office staff from turning them away. It is imperative that parent/carers contact their child's Head of Year regarding any issue, for which appointments may be granted.

Year 7 – Mr S Chittock [chittocks@corver.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:chittocks@corver.rmplc.co.uk)

Year 8 – Mr J Hilditch - [jhilditch@corver.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:jhilditch@corver.rmplc.co.uk)

Year 9 – Mr J Lill - [jlill@corver.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:jlill@corver.rmplc.co.uk)

Year 10 – Mr M Sweeny - [msweeny@corver.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:msweeny@corver.rmplc.co.uk)

Year 11 – Ms H Marsden - [hmarsden@corver.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:hmarsden@corver.rmplc.co.uk)

I would also like to remind parents/carers that, for safeguarding and health and safety reasons, you are not permitted to drive onto the school site to drop your children off for school, or to collect them, unless disability access is required and then using the allocated areas only. Would you please

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drop students off at the end of Dinant Avenue, using Central Avenue or Church Parade, and do not drive up to the school gates as this causes congestion in Dinant Avenue.

Thank you for your help, support and co-operation with all of these matters and I look forward to seeing the students again in September. Do enjoy the remainder of the holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Hockey  
Headteacher

Enclosures:- School terms and holidays sheet

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# Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2021-2022

September 2021							October 2021							November 2021							December 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4					1	2	3										1	2	3	4	5
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
														29	30												
January 2022							February 2022							March 2022							April 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
May 2022							June 2022							July 2022							August 2022						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
30	31																										

	= School days & weekends		= School holidays		= Bank holidays
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	= Training/non-pupil days		= Years 7 and 11 only		= Open School
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<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Wednesday 1 September 2021 – Friday 17 December 2021 <i>Half Term 25 October – 29 October</i>	73 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Tuesday 4 January 2022 – Friday 1 April 2022 <i>Half Term 14 February – 18 February</i>	59 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Tuesday 19 April 2022 – Friday 22 July 2022 <i>Half Term 31 May – 3 June, and May Bank Holiday, 2 May</i>	63 days
		<b>195 days</b>