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CIRCULAR 2021/22 TL017

To: Parents/Guardians of KS3 students
Cc: Bursar

October 2021

Communication through the SIMS Parent App:

The SIMS app went live for all students over the last couple of weeks and we have had over 60% of parents signing up so far. Links and registration codes have been sent home by email to all parents and if you have not yet signed up we would ask that you do this as soon as possible.

Parents who download and activate the app will see:

1. School Holidays
2. Pupil Timetables
3. Attendance – Weekly attendance reports
4. Achievements awarded and subject they came from
5. Reports from Summer 2022
6. Letters attached onto system / Messages posted on system

We hope to use this as our main source of communication for parents / guardians and we would like to see all parents / guardians signed up to allow quick and easy communication between home and school. We will be using this for letters and messages moving forward and we will gradually phase out the text messaging that we have been using for the majority of communications. It is therefore essential that everyone has access so they do not miss out on important information going home from the College about your child.

Any parents / guardians who have not yet signed up will receive an email this afternoon around 4pm with a fresh link to enable the SIMS App and we would ask that you activate this as soon as possible.

Assessment at Blackwater IC:

Students in Years 8-10 will complete four assessments during the academic year:

Assessment 1	will be completed during w/c 11 th October 2021
Assessment 2	will be completed during w/c 6 th December 2021
Winter report	Result will be an average of assessment 1 and 2
Assessment 3	will be completed during w/c 28 th March 2022
Assessment 4	will be completed during w/c 15 th June 2022
Summer report	Result will be an average of all 4 assessments

Assessment 1 and assessment 3 are conducted within the normal classroom setting. This is to replicate what happens during Key Stage 4. A number of GCSE courses are portfolio based and students are expected to complete portfolios, controlled assessments and practical assessments. Assessments 1 and 3 are a mixture of practical assessments, projects and tests depending on the subject involved.

Assessments 2 and 4 are formal examinations and students will have an examination timetable and sit assessments under exam conditions.

It is important for students to realise that all of the assessments carry equal weighing and that assessments 1 and 3 are as important as assessments 2 and 4.

Revision for assessments is very important in preparing students for examinations in the future. All students will be aware of the requirements for each assessment. Any parental assistance that can be given with this is always very useful and we appreciate the support of parents in preparing their children for future success.

Stephen Taylor
Principal