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TRUST·ED
Schools' Partnership

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

13th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers and Students,

As we reach the end of this academic year, may I take this opportunity to say thank you for your support and encouragement and well done to our fantastic students for their adaptability, resilience and hard work. It remains a challenging time for all, so it has been very important that we are all pulling in the same direction. Thank you.

Now on to our outline plans for next year; a year which we hope will see the return of most of our 'normal' ways of working. Based on the Government's lifting of restrictions and the guidance from the Department for Education (in italics below) which can be found [here](#), the following outlines our intent for the new academic year:

Asymptomatic testing & staggered return

Schools will only provide tests for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for pupils and staff over the summer period if they are attending school settings. Therefore, we will not be providing testing kits for use during the school holidays. However, testing kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

Pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Settings can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

We will therefore offer students the opportunity to have 2 Lateral Flow tests on return to school (as we did in March this year after school closure ended). Please find below a link to a new consent form which we ask parents/carers to complete and submit by Friday 16th July 9.00am, if you wish for your child to have lateral flow tests on return to school.

[CONSENT FORM FOR LATERAL FLOW TEST IN SEPTEMBER 2021](#)

NOTE: Please only complete this form to give consent. You do not need to submit a form if you do not give consent. Parents /carers of current Year 6 (new Year 7) should complete the dedicated form (link sent within the recent letter).

We will stagger the return of students in September to allow us to safely manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. Please note the following return dates for students in September:

- Year 7 return on 03rd September
- Year 11 return on 06th September
- Year 10 return on 07th September
- Year 9 return on 08th September
- Year 8 return on 09th September

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Covid-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.

Admitting children into school: In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

I am sure that parents/carers will appreciate that should we need to refuse attendance of a student on the grounds of Covid-19 symptoms, then the decision will have been taken in the interest of everyone's safety.

Confirmatory PCR tests

From September, Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-taken LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

Therefore, we do not expect to be actively tracing close contacts should any of our students test positive for Covid-19 as this will be undertaken through NHS Test and Trace.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Bubbles

The Government has said that when students come back, they will no longer need to stay in year group 'bubbles'. This means that students may have contact with those in other year groups.

This is really good news for students and staff. We will therefore no longer need to have students wait in year bubble zones to be collected at lesson changeover, or have separate break / lunch times/zones. We will, therefore, allow students to move from lesson to lesson when dismissed by their class teachers and return to a single whole school break and lunch time for all. Students will have further information about this provided in September when they return.

Mixed year working will also allow us to return to offering some extra-curricular clubs and opportunity for mixed age events such as Enrichment Week in the summer term (all being well). We are most pleased to be able to return to vertically arranged (mixed age) Form Tutor grouping and assemblies – something we have very much missed.

Hygiene / ventilation

Whilst restrictions around year bubbles are being removed, we will maintain our focus on cleanliness and hygiene. Therefore, we will likely still require the wiping down of contact points, expect all to wash / sanitise their hands regularly and operate the 'catch it, kill it bin it' approach. We will maintain air flow through doors being kept open / removed, windows opened where possible, while maintaining a comfortable temperature and expect students to be outdoors at break/lunch where possible after they have eaten. We will expect visitors to school to hand sanitise on entry and support our hygiene measures.

Face coverings

Unless local Covid-19 cases require a return of restrictions, students will not be required to wear a face covering. Where Staff or students wish to wear a face covering in communal areas or classrooms, we will allow them to do so. We are awaiting information from the Local Authority transport team about whether students will be required to wear a face covering on school transport. It may be prudent therefore to send your child to school in September with a face covering (unless exempt) just in case they need to wear one.

Visitors

Visitors, including parents/carers are asked to continue to make an appointment through school Reception if wishing to visit in person.

Some final things to mention:

- Students are expected to return to school in full school uniform (please see letter from Mr Longhurst this week).
- All school transport will be running as usual from 03rd September, with collection timings to aim for arrival at school no earlier than 08:40am.
- The school canteen will be open from Monday 6th September, so please ensure sufficient funds are available in ParentPay for your child to purchase food.

NOTE: For Year 7's, as they will not have registered for cashless catering on their first day (03rd September), Shire Services Catering are providing a complimentary meal (without charge) for students to try the school food (please send your child with a packed lunch otherwise). This will take place on 03rd September only. Students with parental consent will be registered for cashless catering ready for use the following week.

- We will be providing all students with key information about any changes and how they may impact on them when they return to school in September.

With best wishes for a lovely summer break



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