



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are enjoying the summer and have been able to spend time together with family and friends.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of the arrangements for the restart of school in September.

### **Testing at the start of the academic year.**

As previously communicated the latest Government guidance remains that schools should offer all students the opportunity to receive two lateral flow tests at the start of the academic year. Please note however, that advice from The Government states that when a student has tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, it is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Therefore, anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be **re-tested within 90 days of that test**, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have not already indicated whether your child should be included in testing this September, please complete this form [Covid-19 Online Consent Form](#). If consent was given during the first round of mass testing in March, then **no further action is needed**.

To avoid prolonged disruption to the start of term the testing commences on Wednesday 1st September 2021. The confirmed times for each year group are below. Students must report to the Main Reception on arrival and will immediately leave the site once the test has been completed. School uniform does not need to be worn for the first test. Students will need to arrange their own transport to and from school on the days and times stipulated below. Please ensure your son/daughter has your mobile phone number & email address so the test result can be sent directly to you.

Wednesday 1st September	Year 7 - 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
Thursday 2nd September	Year 8 - 11am to 1pm. Year 9 - 2pm to 3.30pm.
Friday 3rd September	Year 10 - 10am to 11.30am. Year 11 - 12pm to 1.30pm.

The second test will be taken 3 to 5 days after the first one starting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Some of the lateral flow tests sent to school are the Orient Gene, a nose test only. The instructions are located on the following link

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999105/COVID-19-self-test-nose-only-instructions-orient-gene.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999105/COVID-19-self-test-nose-only-instructions-orient-gene.pdf)

### **Return to school**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September will be the first full day of the new academic year. There will be no staggered start and students must be on site by 8.40am. Details of each students Tutor Group will be signposted at each entrance. There will be a short assembly for each year group and normal lessons will start Period 2.

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As a school we will be still implementing a small number of control measures to restrict the spread of the virus. This is in line with the latest guidance and entails – encouraging regular hand hygiene, keeping spaces well ventilated and keeping the enhanced cleaning procedures which were in place last academic year.

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. If a student wishes to continue to wear their face covering in classrooms or communal areas, they will be permitted to do so.

Attendance is now mandatory for all students, but 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). Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they 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](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Please note that we do have a contingency plan if as a school we experience a large number of connected cases. This plan includes the temporary reintroduction of wearing face masks, suspension of extra-curricular activities and further regular on-site testing. The activating of any such contingency measures will be done in consultation with the LEA and national public health representatives.

I hope you and your family enjoy the remainder of the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Williams

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