

12th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Introduction:

As you will be aware the government made a number of announcements last week regarding COVID-19 restrictions coming to an end, including those applying to schools. Therefore, I thought it was timely to update you regarding our plans for September.

In summary, apart from further guidance relating to Lateral Flow Testing and further clarification regarding face coverings, we hope to return to a normal school day and arrangements in September. We are planning a staggered start to term with an induction programme to welcome Year 9 to Whitley Bay High School and support all students in adapting to schools returning to normal.

It is important to highlight that, if government guidance changes, the following plans may have to be adapted and I will keep you updated at the first opportunity, even if this is during the summer holiday break.

Below are the timings of our school day for your information:

Monday, Thursday	Tuesday, Friday	Wednesday	Timetable
8:55 - 9:10		8:55 - 9:25	Personal Development or Assembly
9:10 - 10:10		9:25 - 10:20	Lesson 1
10:10 - 11:10		10:20 - 11:15	Lesson 2
11:10 - 11:25		11:15 - 11:30	Morning Break
11:25 - 12:25		11:30 - 12:25	Lesson 3
12:25 - 1:15		12:25 - 1:15	Lunch Break
1:15 - 2:15*		1:15 - 2:15	Lesson 4
2:15 - 3:15		2:15 - 3:15	Lesson 5

* Students leave school at the end of Lesson 4 on Tuesday

Other changes for September:

- Year Group Bubbles will come to an end;
- Whole year group assemblies will take place;
- Students will change into their PE kit at school for PE lessons;
- We will return to our normal teaching and learning practices within the classroom;
- There will be no expectation to wear masks unless students choose to do so.

Induction Arrangements:

Matt Bland, Head of Year 9 will write to you over the summer break with further information about Year 9 Induction Day which is on **Friday 3rd September**. In order to allow us to have an induction morning for Year 10, 11 and 13, Year 9 will then start at **12.45pm on Monday 6th September** for a tutorial session and commence lessons Period 4 and 5.

Lateral Flow Testing:

Students are not being asked to continue testing during the summer holidays, but testing will continue in the autumn term. Therefore, please ensure that you have at least 1 test to use before your child's return to school in September. If you do not have testing kits from your child's middle school, the school does have additional test kits available which can be collected from school reception at any time, including during the holidays or you can order test kits for your whole household via: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Given the age of our students and the fact they have been carrying out home Lateral Flow Testing for some time now we will not be conducting in school testing in September. Instead, we will continue to ask students to test at home. Could we ask that your child tests on Thursday (2nd September) night or Friday (3rd September) morning before they start their Induction.

After this, for the rest of September, students will test twice weekly at home. By continuing with testing at home this will allow us to carry out the Induction processes we want with each year group and ensure teaching is not disrupted by testing in school.

Personal Development:

In line with the latest government guidance, we have updated our Personal Development curriculum. This will cover the four key components of Citizenship, Health and Well-being, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. These sessions will be delivered across all year groups from years 9 to 13 with increasing and appropriate levels of maturity and sophistication as the students get older. They will be taught during our Wednesday morning Personal Development sessions, tutor time and Yr.9 LEV lessons. These lessons are a vital component of every student's personal development as they grow into happy, mature, thoughtful and respectful members of society.

More information about the material covered will be provided in our parent information evenings in the Autumn Term and added to the school website in September. There will be an opportunity to feedback your views on the Personal Development curriculum during the information evening and via the website.

Uniform:

Given the summer is often the time when parents buy school uniform, I wanted to remind you that we expect all students to be in full correct uniform and we monitor this closely. This will include a lanyard and ID card which students will receive from their tutors in September. I consider uniform helps to create a shared sense of identity and pride in the school and is important in terms of inclusion and safeguarding.

Headteacher:
Steve Wilson

Deputy Headteachers:
Linda Buckle
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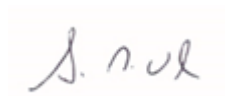
The full uniform list is available on our school website under “Year 8 Induction 2021, Letters and Publications”. However, to avoid unnecessary conflict, can I remind you that leggings, jogging bottoms, non-school hoodies/sweatshirts and anything other than black shoes/trainers are not acceptable for school.

Conclusion:

I am really looking forward to the next academic year and welcoming your child to our school, especially with the promise of a more normal experience for students.

I hope your daughter/son enjoys the remainder of this term and may I wish you an enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON
Headteacher