

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. I am aware, however, current Year 9, 10 and 12 students and parents have either not experienced or will not remember what a normal school day is. Therefore, part of our plans for September includes a staggered induction programme to support students in adapting to these changes.

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.

The School Day:

The normal school day is summarised in the table below:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 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:

- Year Group Bubbles will come to an end;
- Students can use either gate to enter or exit the school;
- 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 or we are advised to temporarily re-introduce masks in response to a local outbreak.

Induction Arrangements:

As you know from my letter dated 25th June, we will be staggering the days and timings when students return to school:

Friday 3rd September Year 9 and Year 12 Induction*

Monday 6th September Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 Induction*

* Timings and further information will be sent out to students and parents by pastoral teams.

Lateral Flow Testing:

At the start of July, additional COVID test kits were handed out to students in Years 9, 10 and 12. This should provide sufficient testing for your child for the remainder of the summer term. 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 one test to use on the evening before/the morning of your child's return to school in September. 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 mass in school testing in September. Instead, we will continue to ask students to test at home. For Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 students this will be on Sunday (5th September) night or Monday (6th September) prior to returning to school. After this, for the rest of September, students will test twice weekly at home.

For new Year 9 and Year 12 students they will test on Thursday (2nd September) night or Friday (3rd September) morning before starting their Induction.

After this, for the rest of September, all students will test twice weekly at home with additional test kits handed out during the first and third weeks of term.

By continuing with testing at home this will allow us to carry out the necessary Induction processes we want with each year group and ensure teaching is not disrupted by testing in school.

Year 10 & Year 11 Lunch Time Arrangements from September:

Central to our school ethos is treating students like young, emerging adults and giving them opportunities to take on responsibility and develop independence. Therefore, while we offer an excellent catering service within school we also allow, with parental consent, students to go out into the local community at lunchtime. When students leave the site at lunchtime this enables them to have some fresh air, take a break from their studies and support local businesses.

Due to Covid-19, we have had to keep students on site for lunch. From September, it is our aim to allow students off-site at lunchtime again.

We will be asking tutors during tutor time to register students' intentions for lunch each day: will they stay on site or go off site? If, under exceptional circumstances, students change their mind there will be a mechanism in place to inform the school of this decision.

We are very proud of the conduct in the community of the vast majority of our students. However, leaving the site is not a right and to give us confidence that students will conduct themselves in a mature, responsible manner in the community at lunchtime, we will only permit a student to leave the site if:

- They arrive punctually in the morning and after lunch;
- They are in the full correct uniform, including a lanyard and ID badge;
- Their behaviour in lessons and around school is in line with our expectations;
- When out in the community they respect our neighbours and put all litter in bins.

You will shortly receive a Microsoft Form to complete asking you to give permission for your child to leave the school site at lunchtime. It will also ask you to provide us with your child's mobile number, so that we can contact them should it be necessary when off site. The form also asks you to support our Home School Agreement.

Year 10 and Year 11 students will be able to start going out for lunch from **Tuesday 7th September**.

Sixth Form students will receive further information about their lunchtime arrangements from the Sixth Form Team.

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 Year 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.

Headteacher:
Steve Wilson

Deputy Headteachers:
Linda Buckle
Andrew Sherlaw

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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 evenings and via the website.

Uniform:

Given the summer is often the time when parents buy new items of school uniform, I wanted to remind you that we expect all students to be in full correct uniform and we will be monitoring this even more closely from September. 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.

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.

End of the term:

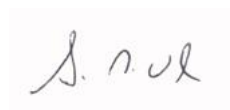
On Friday 16th July, Year 10 students will have an end of year celebration tutorial from 12.45 – 1.15 pm. Therefore, school will finish at 1.15pm on that day for Year 10 students.

Conclusion:

I am really looking forward to the next academic year, 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