

Dear Parent/Carer,

Return to School – September 2021

Managing COVID-19 in school this term

Our priority continues to be delivering face-to-face, high-quality education to pupils while also ensuring a safe school environment for all.

We have reviewed the school's risk assessments and operational procedures in light of the updated government and local guidance issued on the 17th August and we continue to maintain a cautious and safe approach.

The start of term

As students will potentially have mixed with other people during the holidays all of our students will receive two on-site lateral flow tests over the first 5 days of returning back to school. As such we will be conducting a phased return on 2nd and 3rd September. The details for each year group is outlined below:

Year 7 – In school on both 2nd and 3rd September as normal. Testing to take place on 2nd September at 9:00am. Parents will receive a separate email detailing the consent required which we must receive prior to 2nd September.

Year 8 – Remote learning set via Teams on 2nd and 3rd September. Arrive for on-site test 11:00am on 2nd September.

Year 9 – Remote learning set via Teams on 2nd and 3rd September. Arrive for on-site test 1:30pm on 2nd September.

Year 10 – Remote learning set via Teams on 2nd and 3rd September. Arrive for on-site test 9:30am on 3rd September.

Year 11 – Remote learning set via Teams on 2nd September and the morning of 3rd September. Arrive for on-site test and afternoon lessons at 11:30am on 3rd September.

Any previous consent for students in Y8-Y11 will be used for testing. Once a test result is confirmed students in Y8-Y10 will then return home to continue with remote learning. **If the test is positive for any student, they will be expected to take a confirmatory PCR test at home.**

All students will then return to school on Monday 6th September at 8:40am and will be tested for a second time in school that week. Any time your child is not expected in school on 2nd and 3rd September, distance learning will be set via our TEAMS virtual learning platform.

During the term

- **If a student has symptoms of COVID-19 they should not come into school and take a PCR test.** If this is positive, then they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days. NHS Track and Trace will now identify close contacts and where needed school will support them doing this. Close contacts will no longer be expected to

self-isolate but instead take a PCR test. PCR tests cannot be organised or taken in school, students must go to a testing centre to access a PCR test.

- Students will no longer be taught in their bubble rooms and so will be able to travel between classrooms, carrying their books and equipment with them.
- Masks will now also be optional for students and staff both in classrooms and communal areas; however, they will be expected to be worn when using school transport. We fully support any student or member of staff who wishes to wear a mask in school.
- Students will continue to be asked if they have COVID-19 symptoms on arrival to school.
- We will continue with restrictions on movement at break and lunchtimes, maintaining a social distance from others where possible, extra cleaning, good ventilation, and high hygiene expectations.
- Twice weekly home testing will continue for staff and students until the end of September, where it will be reviewed again.

Contingency Measures

If a number of staff or students test positive, we will be required to implement our outbreak management plan. In this situation we would work closely with Public Health England to decide which additional measures school may need to implement. It could include the re-implementation of class bubbles, mandatory mask wearing as well as further increased cleaning, ventilation and testing. These possible stepped-up measures would aim to avoid returning to the mass remote learning we were required to implement at times last year. If the number of staff or students is considered significant enough Public Health England could advise we once again return to whole school remote learning. This is clearly something we all want to avoid and so it is vital we all maintain a cautious approach.

If you have any questions please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely



Tom Hailwood
Headteacher