

1 September 2021

Dear Parents

I am very much looking forward to welcoming the students back to school. From September, following the updated guidance from the DfE, we will be operating in a 'normal' way, students will be able to move around the school as they used to and year group bubbles will no longer formally exist. The new school year will bring a mix of some COVID keeps (such as staggered lunch times) and a return to aspects of school that we have missed, such as time in the morning with form tutors.

As you are aware, plans are in place to test all students with consent twice before everyone returns to school. For Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, consent for these test has been taken from previous consent forms that were sent out. Please notify school if you wish to withdraw this consent. Before the school holiday, you should have received a text message with your time to come into school for the first test on Friday 3rd September, a reminder of this will be sent out to you later on today, Wednesday 1st September. The arrangements for the week beginning Monday 6th September are as follows:

	2 nd Test Date	Return to School
Year 7	Monday 6 th September – from 8.30am	Remain in school after test on the Monday morning
Year 8	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
Year 9	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
Year 10	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
Year 11	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September

Covid Symptoms and isolation:

From September, the rules remain the same if any student or member of staff has Covid symptoms (high temperature, loss of taste and/or smell, persistent cough) they must isolate and take a PCR test. Even if a lateral flow test is completed and is negative, students must remain at home until the outcome of the PCR test. Members of their household may have to isolate as well. Please be aware that the guidance for isolation has changed, please find more information regarding isolation on the following government website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/> - <https://tinyurl.com/7n3j8j2m>

- From September, **children under 18 and members of staff who are double vaccinated no longer need to isolate if they are identified as a close contact.**
- Anyone identified as a close contact will be informed that they may take their own PCR test

All contact tracing is now done by the NHS Test and Trace service and will no longer be completed by school. The following link has the latest Test and Trace guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/> - <https://tinyurl.com/fv48z855>

Please continue to notify school if you receive a positive lateral flow or PCR test via the email attendance@leesbrook.co.uk, we record these results and notify PHE as necessary. It is vital we have an accurate overview of cases across the school and put plans in place in case there is a high number of cases and a potential outbreak of COVID.

The school has in place an 'Outbreak plan.' The Government has made it a national priority that education settings should continue to operate as normally as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, additional measures may become necessary in some circumstances, for example:

- If there is an outbreak within a setting that needs to be managed.
- If there is extremely high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and other measures have failed to reduce the transmission.
- As part of a package of measures responding to a Variant of Concern (VoC).

In the case of an outbreak in the school, the Outbreak plan identifies additional temporary measures that may be required, for example the temporary wearing of face masks.

Travelling and coronavirus:

Please be aware that there are current quarantine restrictions if you visit a country outside the Common Travel Area (i.e. UK, the Crown Dependencies – Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man, and Ireland). Quarantine following a holiday may impact on your youngster's statutory attendance to school if that country's status is subject to change at short notice.

The latest school guidance for parents and carers is also available and will hopefully answer any remaining questions you may have:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges> - <https://tinyurl.com/xbhyz2rj>

Thank you as ever for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Zoe House
Headteacher