

20 July 2021

Dear Parent

It has been a very challenging year overall but as I have said to you before in previous letters, I am exceptionally proud of how the students have coped with changes both in school and also the switch to remote learning when necessary. They have truly shown how resilient, determined and flexible they are when it was necessary.

It was a huge job last year to make the COVID changes and this year there is equally as much planning to put everything back together ready for September. You have received a range of letters with information regarding changes in place for September, there is a lot of movement back to our pre COVID ways of operating but with some 'COVID- keeps' going forward.

We have received updated guidance from the government, key messages from this for September are:

1. Year group bubbles are no longer required
2. An outbreak management must be in place for the school, this will include things like the reintroduction of face masks and the ability to switch to remote education at short notice
3. Assemblies can resume in school
4. Mixing can occur at break and lunchtimes between year groups
5. Contact tracing ends for schools, this will be completed by NHS Test & Trace who will work directly with staff / students and families with a positive PCR
6. Isolation continues where you have symptoms, a PCR test will still be required
7. No more face masks in classrooms or corridors
8. Mass Test for all students when they return to school in September
9. Risk assessment will continue to be in place with a focus as always on
 - Hygiene
 - Enhance cleaning
 - Ventilation
 - Following PHE advice

Testing on Return to School in September

The government has announced that all students must be tested using the lateral flow tests twice before they return to school in September. Schools are able to use a staggered start to the new term to organise this.

Therefore at the start of next term, I am planning to do the first of these tests for ALL STUDENTS on Friday 3rd September (the second INSET day). Then there will a slightly staggered start to the week beginning Monday 6th September to be able to complete the second test. For Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, consent for these test will be taken from the previous consent forms that were sent out. Please notify school if you wish to withdraw this consent. Could new Year 7 parents please ensure that they have completed the Microsoft Form they have been sent out to give consent for the September testing.

The plan for the first week back is 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

As the table states, Year 7 will remain in school after they have had their tests and will be the only Year group in school on this day. This will give us time to complete transition work that wasn't able to take place during the summer. Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be sent times to come into school for their lateral flow tests and then will start school at the normal time the following day.

School day:

This information has been sent out previously, but here is another reminder about the school day in September. All students will enter the school through the main school gate.

School Day from September 2021 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

Registration	8.40am – 9.05am			
Period 1	9.05am – 10.05am			
Period 2 & Break	10.05am – 11.20am	Staggered break times		
Period 3	11.20am – 12.20pm			
Period 4 & Lunch	12.20pm – 2.00pm	Lunch 1 (Yrs 9 & 11) 12.20 – 12.50	Lunch 2 (Yr 7only) 12.55 – 1.25	Lunch 3 (Yrs 8 &10) 1.30 – 2.00
Period 5	2.00pm – 3.00pm			

School Day from September 2021 (Thursday only)

Registration	8.40am – 9.05am			
Period 1	9.05am – 10.05am			
Period 2 & Break	10.05am – 11.20am	Staggered break times		
Period 3	11.20am – 12.20pm			
Period 4 & Lunch	12.20pm – 2.00pm	Lunch 1 (Yrs 9 & 11) 12.20 – 12.50	Lunch 2 (Yr 7only) 12.55 – 1.25	Lunch 3 (Yrs 8 &10) 1.30 – 2.00
EARLIER FINISH 2 PM (Years 8 – 13 only, Year 7 to remain on-site until 3pm)				

School lunches

Money will still not be able to be used on site from September so any money for lunches must be put onto the school gateway system. From September, there will a full range of hot and cold meal options available to students at break and lunch time.

Uniform

Can I remind you that in September full uniform will be expected to be worn by all students, this includes a formal school shoe and not trainer-like shoes. A blazer must also be worn every day, students cannot wear hoodies or jackets as an alternative. There has recently been an increase in the number of students wearing nose studs and jewellery; nose studs and belly button piercings are not allowed in school. No other additional jewellery should be worn other than a wrist watch and stud earrings. Jeans are also not allowed.

It is only a few students who do not follow the dress code and these are spoken to in school and given sanctions, please do not believe your youngster if they tell you that other students are not challenged if they are not following the dress code rules.

I am very much looking forward to going back to a sense of 'normality' in schools, in particular being able to resume extracurricular activities and trips next academic year. Our students have succeeded in very challenging circumstances this year, they have been a credit to yourselves and the school.

I would like to finish this letter by saying a huge thank you to all of you for your ongoing support throughout this year, especially for all your hard work during lock down supporting your youngsters with their remote learning. It has been very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe House". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Zoe House
Headteacher