

13th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Amidst all the excitement of football, I am sure it has not escaped your attention that the government has confirmed that the move to 'Step 4' in the easing of Covid-19 restrictions will go ahead on Monday 19th July. Further to this, the Department for Education has published additional guidance for schools.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to share the key outcomes for our students and keep it separate from next week's end of term letter. **The headline news is that in September we will be able to resume what would be considered as normal working practices.** This will come as a great relief to our students and staff.

Key Points

- There is no requirement to keep students apart in what we came to call 'Year Group Bubbles'.
- There is no requirement for students not to mix with children from other year groups outside of lesson time.
- There is no recommendation to have students in different year groups starting and finishing at different times of the day.
- It will mean that all communal areas and specialist learning spaces can be used by all students and staff once again.
- Full extra-curricular activities will be able to resume.
- There will be no automatic requirement to self-isolate if a student, or teacher, has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. It is hoped this will end the mass closing down of school bubbles and keep students across the country in school.

Moving forward

There are recommendations for all schools to follow what is regarded as best practice and we will certainly do so. Hand sanitising will continue to be encouraged and the benefits of well-ventilated rooms have also been learned. As you already know, we decided to keep the split lunchtimes and continue with virtual Parents' Evenings due to the positive feedback we received on these matters. We are pleased that this confirmation means our new academy day can take effect from September 2021. **A reminder table is at the bottom of this letter.**

Testing

The recommendations for schools have stated that secondary school students should be tested twice on their return to school. The two tests do not have to be taken before students can return to classrooms after the holiday. However, we have decided that the first test will be taken before the students return to their normal timetable and that the second test will be taken, as advised, between 3-5 days later.

The government has given schools permission to stagger their return in September if they need to do so. We have coordinated our testing so that only two year groups are affected by a one day later than normal return. The table below shows the schedule for the students' return to school test, their first day of normal school and their second test. Other than Years 8 and 9 it is exactly as already calendared. Thursday 2nd September was on the calendar as a non-student day (staff training) and Friday 3rd September as Year 7 Induction Day and 6th Form Enrolment Day (Year 12). There is no change to these events as we will test the Year 7 and 6th Form students the day before on our Staff Training Day.

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	Thursday 2nd Sept	Friday 3rd Sept	Monday 6th Sept	Tuesday 7th Sept
Year 7	Test 1	Induction Day	Normal lessons begin	Normal lessons continue
Year 8	Non Student Day	Non Student Day	Test 1	Normal lessons begin
Year 9	Non Student Day	Non Student Day	Test 1	Normal lessons begin
Year 10	Non Student Day	Test 1	Normal lessons begin	Normal lessons continue
Year 11	Non student Day	Test 1	Normal lessons begin	Normal lessons continue
6th Form	Test 1 (all 6th Form)	Year 12 Enrolment Day	Normal lessons begin	Normal lessons continue

Please note that separate letters will be sent detailing the time slot for each Tutor group to arrive for their test. Students will be free to leave after their test and they are not required to wear their school uniform. The test will be the new Orient Gene Lateral Flow Test. This test only requires a nasal insertion and not throat. The results will be available after 15 minutes.

I hope that this confirmation reassures you that your child will be able to enjoy a much fuller and richer experience throughout the next academic year. They deserve better than the last two years have given them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert

Our new Academy day from September 2021:

Time	Years 7 and 8	Years 9, 10, 11 and 6th Form
8.30 - 8.50	Tutorial/Assembly	Tutorial/Assembly
8.50- 9.50	Period 1	Period 1
9.50 - 10.50	Period 2	Period 2
10.50 - 11.10	Break	Break
11.10 - 12.10	Period 3	Period 3
12.10 - 1.50	Period 4 followed by 40 mins lunch	Lunch followed by Period 4
1.50- 2.50	Period 5	Period 5