



September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you had a good summer break, we look forward to welcoming the students back next week in what will be a nearly normal school environment. It has been a busy time in school with highly successful and well attended Summer Schools taking place, as well as significant maintenance completed, led by our Site Team.

We hope for a more normal year ahead but are aware that Covid-19 is still prevalent in the community.

We will be maintaining ventilation, with open windows, and recommending students regularly wash their hands.

There are significant changes to the guidance for schools.

- Bubbles are no longer required
- Face coverings can be worn but are no longer recommended

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#).

Staff who do not need to isolate and students who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

These changes to the guidance will mean significantly less disruption due to isolations.

If there is a rise in covid cases in the school community, after discussion with public health, some measures such as bubbles and face masks may be temporarily put back in place.



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Students will need to test twice weekly using Lateral flow tests (LFDs), the first of which should be done before the resumption of classes on Thursday 9 September.

Students in Years 8-11 are experienced at taking these LFD tests. Students can, if they are confident, test at home; the tests we administer in school are identical. If you need a new test package please collect one from reception; we have enough for one per household with more supplies due at the end of next week.

For those students who wish to be assisted, we are offering a first test on site with slots available on Monday between 9:00am & 11:00am, please use the [booking system](#). The test will be taken in the Upper School Hall with staff to supervise should students require assistance. Please use the entrance at the back of the canteen as before.

If testing at home please use this [form](#) to log your test result.

Students in Year 7 will likely be less experienced using these tests and we will offer on site covid testing on Wednesday next week, alongside the Parent Tutor Appointment and collection of Chromebooks etc. We will give details on the day, when parents arrive, and have consent forms for parents to sign in person.

Details about subsequent tests will be provided next week.

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive Lateral Flow Device test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Before the summer break we shared this [presentation](#) of the updates to our school systems, please take note of the entrances and timings for students, our Heads of Year and Tutors are looking forward to welcoming students at the start of each day.

Yours faithfully



Simon Dallimore
Headteacher