

Wednesday, 11 August 2021

Ref: Arrangements for September 2021

Dear parents/carers and students

Firstly, I would like to confirm that the academic year ends on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 3.30pm.

Most importantly, and in light of some increased clarity from the Secretary of State for Education yesterday I am now in a position to write to you about arrangements for the start of the next academic year.

School reopens to staff on Thursday 2nd September 2021 for two Teacher Training Days (TTD). Students will return to school from Monday 6th September 2021 but on a staggered basis, as follows:

Monday 6th September 2021 - Year 7 and 12 only Tuesday 7th September 2021 - Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 only Wednesday 8th September 2021 - All years in school

When students return in September, we will be running our Asymptomatic Testing Site again, as we did in March. Students with consent from March will take two Lateral Flow Device tests in school, any student, where consent was not previously provided but would like to do so now, can do so by completing the consent form at this link: https://forms.office.com/r/A9nxwhvDXg

Testing will take place over the first 6 school days and no student will be tested without consent.

Students are encouraged to continue with home testing throughout September also and we will provide test kits as and when we receive them.

Students aged 11 to 17 will also no longer be required to isolate from 16th August 2021 if they are in close contact with a positive COVID case. Students who are 18 will not be required to isolate in the first four months after their 18th birthday thus allowing them time to get fully vaccinated. However, isolation will still be necessary if they do catch COVID 19.

From September, students will continue to head to specific zones at the start of the school day, as they have during the summer term before line-up at 8.55am.

Year 7 will head to the canopy around the Hub

Year 8 to the lower field behind L Block

Year 9 to the courts

Year 10 to the field by C block

Year 11 to the field by the volleyball courts.

Key Stage 5 students can head straight to the Sixth Form Centre on their arrival.

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Bubbles will no longer be in place and students will attend lessons in specialist classrooms as indicated on their timetables, which will be provided on their first day back.

Students will no longer need to wear their PE kit on timetabled PE days and should be in their full school uniform at all times and bring their PE kit with them on PE days.

Some control measures will remain. We will continue to maximise ventilation in classrooms, encourage the regular washing and sanitising of hands, the sanitising of desks in classrooms routinely and regular daily cleaning of high contact areas round the school site, such as hand rails and door handles. However, there will be no more face coverings in classes or communal areas.

From September we will return to our usual finish time for all students of 3.35pm as there is no expectation of staggered finish times.

Finally, there has been an amendment to the mobile Phone Policy from September 2021 and the updated policy is now available on the website.

Thank you for your support, understanding and patience over the course of the year. Here's to a fabulous summer and a much more normal school year from September.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing

Yours sincerely

Mr J Hodgson *Principal*

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