



1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

### Arrangements for the Start of the Academic Year

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer break and I am looking forward to welcoming students, especially our new Year 7 cohort, to the school.

Please see the information below as a reminder for arrangements for the start of the academic year.

In July, we communicated that there is an expectation from the DfE that all students should complete COVID tests prior or upon returning to school. This guidance has not changed over the summer and testing remains vital to prevent transmission and to keep all staff and students safe upon return. If a student has had a positive PCR Covid-19 test from the NHS within the last 90 days, they should not be tested again as it may lead to a false positive. The testing and return to school timeline is outlined below as a reminder. No student will be tested on site unless consent has been given by parents/carers. Consent may still be given by completing [this form](#).

#### Key Dates – September 2021

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET Day – No students in school
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Years 8 and 9</b> - Students to attend school for Lateral Flow Testing only.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Year 7</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> day of school. Transition Day and Lateral Flow Testing.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 7</b> - Students to attend school as normal. <b>Years 8 and 9</b> - Students to attend school for Lateral Flow Testing only.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Years 7, 8 and 9</b> – All students to attend school. Year 7 Lateral Flow Testing.

#### Year 8 and 9 Lateral Flow Testing

Please note that students should arrive via the gate ON Walnut Tree Way and make their way to Room 013. They do not need to wear school uniform. Students should leave the site as soon as the test is complete.

In a change to previous timings, and to give greater flexibility to parents/carers, students may arrive any time between 9am and 3pm to complete the test. Some parents/carers of students in Year 8 & 9 have expressed their preference to complete this test at home using lateral flow devices. This is fine and parents/carers should inform test and trace and complete the school's test register using existing login details.

The school will contact the parent/carer of any student who tests positive during in-school testing. There is an expectation that all students and staff will continue to test twice weekly at home using LFT devices and students will be provided with test kits during the first week back in school. I would encourage students to test each Wednesday and Sunday.

A reminder that there is no longer a requirement that 'bubbles' or close contacts be sent home by the school in the event of a positive case. NHS test and trace should be contacted if any students tests positive by their parents/carers and guidance will be provided. We will continue to work closely with the DfE and Public Health England on current guidance.

#### **Face masks/coverings**

All students should ensure that they have a face covering and also a plastic bag in which to place the covering when not in use. Students will be able to wear their own PPE if they wish to do so.

Students will be required to wear face coverings whilst inside the building in communal areas. This will be reviewed regularly, in line with government guidance at the time.

#### **School Opening Time**

Gates will open at 8.15am and students will enter gradually, allowing time for hand sanitising and entry to assigned rooms. Staff will supervise this process.

#### **Catering - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Please note that due to ongoing works within the kitchen, there will be a reduced food offer for students on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the school office on 01206 671155.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CA Moffat', written in a cursive style.

Mrs CA Moffat  
Headteacher