



July 2021

Dear parent/carer

We have had a long summer term, but the end is in sight and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

As is customary, the school will be closing early on **Friday 16 July 2021**, in readiness for the summer break.

Students will be released from 1:00pm onwards, with those students who are entitled to a free school meal being able to collect this earlier.

As we will have a full Year 7, and those students have not had the opportunity to have their induction day this term, they will come in for two days without the rest of the school, to allow them time to settle in.

Year 7 students only will arrive on Thursday 02 September and will also be in school on Friday 03 September.

We look forward to welcoming back all our students in Years 11-8 on Monday 06 September 2021, please see further details below.

Summer and Autumn Testing Arrangements

We would like to thank those students who have continued to engage in the Covid-19 home testing programme.

Although the government has said that the asymptomatic testing programme is being paused in schools that will be closed over the summer holidays, the local Director of Public Health has recommended that it should continue. If you wish to access rapid lateral flow testing, you can do so by ordering lateral flow device test kits from GOV.UK or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy. You do not need to report results to the school, but you should still report to the NHS.

We are unsure about the Covid-19 situation that we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, testing will restart on return in the autumn and will continue until the end of September, when the government will carry out a review.

We will offer all students two lateral flow device tests on-site, before they recommence regular testing at home. To facilitate this, we will be operating a staggered start on the first day of term, 06 September 2021. In order to ensure a smooth process, students must **not** arrive before their allocated time.

Year groups are to arrive as follows, ***in full school uniform, with a school bag and ready to learn:***

- Year 11 – 8.45am
- Year 10 – 9.45am
- Year 9 – 10.45am
- Year 8 – 11.45am

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Headteacher: Mr S C Reynolds

Testing will take place in the Sports Hall and students will be directed to the entrance on arrival.

Students who return a negative test will proceed into school as normal.

Any student who returns a positive test will be isolated and will need to be collected from the school and a confirmatory PCR test arranged within 2 days.

Details of the arrangements for the second in-school test will be communicated at the start of the autumn term, but it is likely that this will take the form of a further staggered start to the school day later in the first week of term.

As always, testing is voluntary and the school will not deny access to any student who refuses to take a test.

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's wellbeing. The Government has stated that it will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

You will probably be aware that the Government has removed the requirement for the isolation of large numbers of students who are deemed as close contacts of students who are identified as positive cases in school, with effect from Monday 19 July 2021. However, at this time it is unclear what measures the Government intend to introduce to replace isolation from September.

We will keep you updated with any information or guidance as soon as we receive it.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff, to thank you once again for your support and to wish you a healthy, safe and restful summer.

Yours faithfully



Mr S. C. Reynolds
Headteacher