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16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

This will be my final Friday letter of the academic year, although please do look out for a full round up of the term in the parent bulletin released next week. This term has seen the relaxation of some national Covid-19 restrictions in Step 3 and then Step 4 from the 19<sup>th</sup> July, however as many of you will be aware, the rules around self-isolation have still required many young people to work remotely. Again a huge thank you to all of you at home who have supported your children, not just in keeping up with their studies, but also helping them manage periods of absence from their friends and all the wider activities they will undoubtedly have missed at some point.

It has been great to see a return of some fantastic wider curriculum opportunities this term. Students once again, although tempered slightly by restrictions, have had a Sports Day afternoon. The sun was out, students were engaged and looked as if they really enjoyed some well-earned fun, friendly competitive activities where we could get a glimpse of the college spirit that runs deep within this school. DofE, A level field trips, Drama and Music productions, work experience, 6<sup>th</sup> Form Induction, albeit all on a much smaller scale once again featured at school. I am really looking forward to celebrating with both the Year 11 & 13 students next week at their rearranged prom events, providing the country still moves to step 4 on Monday - it was something students last year really missed out on.

Some key changes to be aware of as we head into the summer break in preparation for our return in September. As current guidance stands, the close contacting of students by schools will cease from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July and confirmed cases will be reported directly to NHS Track and Trace who will manage the process of contacting any who need to self-isolate. They can, should they wish, contact the school for any support but I envisage instruction of when to self-isolate will now be given direct by Track and Trace. The self-isolation of those under 18 is due to be suspended from the 16<sup>th</sup> August so it is planned that for September many more students will be able to remain in school rather than be required to self-isolate. Any students who present with symptoms are still required to test and remain off school as they would if they were unwell, in an attempt to minimise the spread of infection. Twice weekly regular testing is still advised for all throughout the summer break and September, when it is to be reviewed. Please see FAQs from NHS Track & Trace.

For our return in September, social distancing and bubble integrity will no longer be a mandatory requirement. Instead, schools will be required to put in place an outbreak management plan. It's important to stress that whilst the aim is to remove current restrictions, schools will still be expected to bring back higher levels of control such as bubbles, social distancing and face coverings in the event of any outbreak next year. We will make some of our changes permanent, such as Year group specific tutor sessions, the use of year group entrances, exits and play space and a staggered lunch slot, firstly in an attempt to help manage the risk of transmission but secondly, as we have seen some real positive student experiences from operating slightly differently.

All students, unless exempt, will be required to test twice with a lateral flow device **at school** over the course of the first week when we return. In order to facilitate this, a staggered return will be in place to manage the first LFT (table below). Students will complete their first LFT and go home again - once a negative result has been returned, students will be able to return to school the following day. Their second test will be managed on site during their normal school day. Remote lessons will be provided from P1 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September for any student returning later in the week – further details of the testing arrangements, individual time slots and remote learning plans will be sent to you in the last week of August. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help support our testing site, this was invaluable last year. If you feel this is something you could support please see [letter here](#).

	Date of 1 <sup>st</sup> Lateral Flow Test	Return to School	Date of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lateral Flow Test
7	Friday 3 Sep 2021 8:45am – 11:15am	Monday 6 Sep 2021	Wednesday 8 Sep 2021
8	Monday 6 Sep 2021 8:45am – 11:15am	Tuesday 7 Sep 2021	Thursday 9 Sep 2021
9	Monday 6 Sep 2021 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Tuesday 7 Sep 2021	Thursday 9 Sep 2021
10	Tuesday 7 Sep 2021 8:45am – 11:15am	Wednesday 8 Sep 2021	Friday 10 Sep 2021
11	Friday 3 Sep 2021 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Monday 6 Sep 2021	Wednesday 8 Sep 2021
12	Tuesday 7 Sep 2021 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Wednesday 8 Sep 2021	Friday 10 Sep 2021
13	Tuesday 7 Sep 2021 12:00pm – 2:45pm	Wednesday 8 Sep 2021	Friday 10 Sep 2021

As we return to more normal systems and processes in September, I have attached the summary guidance relating to our school uniform policy. Please do read this to ensure all students are fully equipped for their return when purchasing items over the summer. The school will support families where needed, to ensure all students can access and follow our uniform expectations.

We have used INSIGHT as our platform for parents/carers to see progress reports for students and to be able to access timetable and attendance information. We have decided from September to move to a platform called Go4Schools which will bring greater cohesion to our systems and to allow

us over time to roll out improved information and communication to parents. Further information on how to access this will be sent out in September. Meanwhile, all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will have their final set of data for the year uploaded onto INSIGHT before the end of term. Access to INSIGHT will end on 31<sup>st</sup> August so please ensure anything you wish to look at or save has been done before this date. We look forward to sharing information on our new and improved systems next term.

Lastly, it only remains to wish you all a great break, enjoy your time together and thanks again for the support you continue to give to your young people.



Mike Lowdell  
Head Teacher

