



26 August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of year 8 pupils

I hope you have all enjoyed some summer fun and your sons and daughters are getting excited about coming back to school. We are certainly very much looking forward to seeing them all again.

I want to cover three things in this letter to you:

- Arrangements for your child's first day back at school
- Some details about how we will keep Covid safe
- Some reminders about school uniform and personal presentation

### **Your child's first day as a Year 8 Pupil**

Your child's first day back at school on Monday 6 September will give them time to prepare for the new academic year and get back into the swing of academic learning. We have planned activities to support your child's transition from 'bubbles' to a more traditional secondary school experience. On arrival your child should report to the atrium and his or her first activity will start from the atrium. Your child will not need their PE kit but will need the rest of their equipment. Your child's morning break will be at 1045 and lunch break will be at 1305 and they will be able to buy food in the dining room or from the courtyard catering kiosk.

Your child will also have your first lateral flow test on Monday, if you have not filled in the consent form, please arrange for this to be completed. If we do not have your consent, we will not be able to offer your child a test. We are very pleased that the vast majority of parents have already opted for their child to be tested. It is very important that we protect our community with testing on return and the new tests we will be using only require a nose swab – so will be very quick and convenient.

### **How we will keep COVID Safe**

In addition to the 2 lateral flow tests that your child will be offered on return to school, we would like your child to take home tests twice a week until the end of September. The government will review this policy then. It is very helpful if you log your test result with the NHS as the information makes an important contribution to health policy planning. Please report any positive or void results to the school; we do not need to know about any negative results.



The rules about isolation have changed and from 16 August children under 18 do not have to isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. However, if your child has a positive lateral flow test result they must isolate and take a PCR test. If the PCR test is negative your child can return to school. We strongly recommend going to a local test centre as you will get the results quicker. Your child must also isolate if they have COVID symptoms. If your child has a positive PCR result but no symptoms, they must isolate at home, but we will be able to arrange work for them. This is the only circumstance in which we are allowed to set work for children not attending school.

In school we will maintain an enhanced cleaning regime and will make sure that our rooms are well ventilated. To help with this we have appointed another full time all day cleaner. We have also introduced some steps to reduce the congestion on the corridors and stairs. Current guidance from the government is that masks are no longer required in school settings.

We will continue to expect pupils to hand sanitise when they enter and leave rooms and we will actively discourage sharing of resources like pens and classroom equipment so please help your child get into the habit of bringing everything they need every day.

We will continue to keep accurate seating plans in case we have to assist the NHS Track and Trace service but we will not be doing Track and Trace directly as we did last year.

We will, in line with DfE requirements, have plans that we can put in place very quickly if there is a national or more local need to increase COVID security and we will keep you up to date with any details.

Finally if you have been abroad during the summer holidays and need to quarantine in line with Government advice, please notify us as soon as possible if the quarantine period means your child will not be at school at the beginning of term.

### **Reminders about Uniform and Presentation**

Visitors to the school always comment how smart our pupils are and it is wonderful to see them wear their uniform with pride. You can find full details of the school uniform and personal presentation in the Parents' Handbook on our website. While we understand that the summer is sometimes a time for 'experimentation' with hairstyles we expect our pupils to return to school with their hair a single natural colour and not cut shorter than a clipper length number 2. If you have had any difficulty at all purchasing the necessary uniform please contact the school and we will do what we can to help.

Please look out for a further update from me either next week or very early in the first week of term.



It just remains for me to say we are very much looking forward to welcoming your sons and daughters as they start year 8 and we are optimistic that we will have a full and exciting offer for them this year which will support them to realise their goals and aspirations.

Yours faithfully

A L Mobbs

Principal

Further information can be found by following the link below:

Advice for parents and carers about schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>