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Head Teacher: Mr J Brooks B Ed (Hons) NPQH



Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,  
engage and promote success

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you to go through the Covid-19 protection and control measures that will be in place for the start of term. The latest government guidance was released on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and these measures are our response to that guidance. You can find our most up to date risk assessment on the school website.

### Protection and control measures

Government guidance has removed the requirement for us to work in zones or bubbles. This means that assemblies can return and social time and lunch time arrangements to reduce mixing can stop. It also means that students can come to school in full uniform and change for PE and DofE.

The guidance also removes the expectation for schools to trace close contacts and instruct students, parents/carers to self-isolate. This will now be led entirely by NHS Test and Trace.

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff or visitors in school. However, students will still be advised to wear masks on dedicated school transport and public transport, and in light of this, we will be advising students to wear a mask on our own vehicles when out on trips and visits.

We will continue to ensure good hygiene, and additional hand sanitisers will remain around the school site. We will continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene around school and in all lessons. Students, staff and visitors will be encouraged to wash their hands more regularly and to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' advice.

Our premises team will continue to have in place additional cleaning of areas and equipment and staff will continue to support the premises team by regularly cleaning shared surfaces and equipment in the classroom.

All occupied rooms will be well-ventilated with doors and windows open to improve natural ventilation. This will mean that on occasion the temperature in the room may drop. Parents and carers are encouraged to provide their children with a school jumper, but students will be allowed to wear their outdoor school coat if necessary. Students will not be allowed to wear non-school uniform clothing in accordance with our uniform policy.

The government are due to review their guidance at the end of September and if necessary our protection and control measures will change then.

### Confirmed cases and self-isolation

No one is allowed on-site if they have a confirmed case of Covid-19. If any student displays symptoms or is unwell then they will be isolated within school and you will be asked to arrange to collect them immediately.



Where COVID-19 is suspected, dedicated transport will not be able to bring them home and only in exceptional cases will staff be able to take children home.

Children under 18 years and 6 months no longer have to self-isolate if they have been a close contact of a confirmed case or someone in their household has a confirmed case.

If your child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device, then you should book a PCR test. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the Lateral Flow test and it returns a negative result, then your child may return to school. If the PCR is positive or the test is taken more than 2 days after the original negative lateral flow test, then NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the isolation period.

### **Asymptomatic testing**

The guidance requires the school to offer on-site, lateral flow tests to all students on their return to school. Students will be offered 2 tests, 3-5 days apart. This is voluntary and we require parent/carers permission in writing to carry out these tests. The tests are carried out in accordance with the government guidance and all staff involved in testing have completed the necessary training. We strongly encourage you to consent to these tests.

The school does not have the capacity to test every child on arrival before they join their tutor group and start the school day, and the guidance does not require this. Some students will have their first test on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August, some on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>. Year 7 students will have their first test on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>. All second on-site tests will be done during the week beginning Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

All students are expected to attend school from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August whether they have consented to testing or not.

To consent to these 2 on-site tests, and only these 2 on-site tests, please log in to your WEDUC account and complete the online form. Tests cannot be conducted unless this online form has been completed.

### **Home testing**

Once these 2 tests have been conducted on-site, all students are advised to continue testing twice a week at home.

Parents/carers can order home testing kits here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

You can find your nearest home test kit collection point here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Tests can also be collected from your local pharmacy.

### **On-Site testing**

The guidance states that schools should retain a 'small' asymptomatic test site (ATS) and 'if necessary' retain 'minimal testing capacity'.

On-site testing is a huge burden on resources and we are strongly encouraging all parents/carers who wish for their children to continue testing to do so at home. Parents and carers should phone the main school site (01509 890237) and ask to speak to Claire Welch, medical needs co-ordinator, to discuss on-site testing.

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We are really looking forward to the new year and are hopeful that we will be able to have a disruption free year full of amazing trips and visits, memorable encounters and experiences, and opportunities to prepare your child for adulthood. However, if we have learned one thing over the last 18 months, it is that we have to be prepared for the worst. With that in mind, we will continue to have in place a contingency plan to reintroduce protection and control measures should the local or national picture worsen.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Cooper  
Deputy Head Teacher

