



1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the beginning of the new academic year I would like to update you on the latest Government guidance regarding COVID-19 safety measures.

As detailed in my letter at the end of last year, all students are asked to complete two lateral flow tests in school, the first of which is to be taken prior to returning to school. If you have not yet booked an appointment for your child's test please do so using schoolcloud .

To facilitate the lateral flow tests we are staggering the start of term, a reminder of the relevant dates is shown below:

Date	Activity
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 7 & 11 visit school by appointment to conduct their first lateral flow test
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 7 & 11 start the academic year Years 8, 9 & 10 visit the school by appointment to conduct their first lateral flow test
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 8, 9 & 10 start the academic year Years 7 & 11 remain in school
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	All year groups complete their second lateral flow test during the school day

The latest Government guidance can be summarised in the following points:

- Year group bubbles are no longer needed so students from different years will be able to mix.
- School age students are no longer required to isolate if they have had contact with a positive case, including a case within their own household, unless directed to do so by the NHS.
- School attendance is a legal requirement.
- Schools are no longer responsible for tracing close contacts of positive cases; this will now be done by the NHS track and trace team.
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory in school so are now a matter of personal choice; they do however remain recommended for school buses.
- Good ventilation for classrooms is essential so allowing air to flow through rooms needs to be balanced against the need to maintain a comfortable environment for learning. The Government aim to provide CO<sub>2</sub> monitors to help schools check each room.
- All students and staff are asked to continue with the twice weekly lateral flow tests at home, as before kits will be provided.
- Everyone must remain vigilant for the symptoms of a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change in your sense of taste or smell. Any child showing these symptoms must remain at home and arrange a PCR test.

We will be continuing with our hand hygiene and cleaning routines which will be explained to the students when they start school. Students no longer need to enter the site through specific gates and they must now wear school uniform every day. On days when they have PE, students will be expected to change in the changing rooms as they would have done pre-Covid.

Should positive cases increase in our area, we may be directed to reintroduce some of the measures in operation last year.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing the students again when they return next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. K. Willingham', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr N. K. Willingham  
Headteacher