

3rd September

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming back our pupils next week. This letter is a reminder to you of the plans for the return to school.

Plans for Return to School in September and for COVID Lateral Flow Testing

Day	Pupils COVID Testing	Pupils in school start
Thursday 2nd September	Closed to pupils	Staff Inset Day 1 Closed to pupils
Friday 3rd September	Year 7 & 8 COVID Test One for consenting pupils at designated time slot (times to be sent out)	Staff Inset Day 2 Open to Year 7 & Year 8 pupils for COVID testing only - by appointment only
Monday 6th September	Year 9,10,11 COVID Test One for consenting pupils at designated time slots (times to be sent out)	Year 7 Induction day 1 - Year 7 in school all day 8:35am- 2:50pm Year 9,10,11 - Open for COVID testing only - by appointment only
Tuesday 7th September	Year 7 & 8 COVID Test Two for consenting pupils	Year 7 Induction day 2 in school all day 8:35am-2:50pm (Side gate) Year 8 Form time - 11:00am-13:00pm (Side gate) Year 9- 10:30am -12:30pm (Front gate) Year 10- 9:30am-11:30am (Back gate) Year 11 9:00am -12:00pm (Front gate)
Wednesday 8th September		Normal school timetable and full school day for all
Thursday 9th September		Normal school timetable and full school day for all
Friday 10th September	Year 9,10,11 COVID Test Two for consenting pupils	Normal school timetable and full school day for all



Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. Responsibility will now be with the NHS Test and Trace service to manage the contact tracing process.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their school. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their school. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

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Contact tracing

3. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
4. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

5. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their school. Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
6. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
7. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then

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get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

Apologies for the amount of detail in this letter but this is very important information for families and pupils to ensure a safe and settled return to school.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Hanson
Headteacher

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