

7th July 2021

Dear HHS Family,

I am writing to you following the prime minister's announcements this week. We have heard a lot about July the 19th and what this will mean to us all as we move onto stage 4 of the roadmap.

### **Bubbles and testing**

We will be continuing with bubbles until the end of term. The bubble system officially ends on August the 16th. We have put in a staggered start to the term in September and this will allow us time with each year group to reestablish routines in using the entire building.

When children return to school in September they will be offered 2 school COVID tests and asked to continue testing at home. I will write to you over the coming week to outline the final plan for the beginning of the school year.

### **Social distancing**

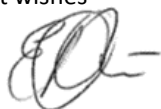
From September there will be no social distancing in schools which will allow teachers to move around the classroom to help students. We will be able to reopen our library which has been used as a socially distanced staff work base. We will also be able to reopen student services to all students although the hub system will remain as this has worked well. We will be able to return to a full offer of enrichment and trips from next year, although we suspect that there will be a delay in restarting international trips.

### **Isolation**

From September students will no longer be required to isolate should they be considered a close contact of a positive case. We will no longer be undertaking track and trace duties, that will be taken up by the NHS. Close contacts will be asked to take a PCR test if they are traced as a contact. Crucially staff will also not be required to isolate if they have been fully vaccinated.

I never dreamed of being a health and safety executive, disaster planner or a pandemic expert and yet I seem to have become all these things in the last 18 months and that was only possible with the unwavering support of families and staff! You have been understanding and compassionate as I have had to make some heartbreaking decisions around isolation, school closures and the limiting of experiences for our students. Thank you very much for all you have done to help us to get through this unusual and challenging time. We will together make the transition to the next phase of the roadmap as smooth for students, staff and families as possible!

Best wishes



Elen Roberts

Headteacher



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