



17 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family have had a good summer and well earned rest. We are really looking forward to welcoming students back on to campus in the coming week and working with them in the term ahead.

We are all hopeful that this year is a little more normal than last and with fewer disruptions for your children. Clearly we are still in the midst of a global pandemic and there has been updated guidance that all schools must follow for the year ahead. The full guidance can be found below:

[DFE Operational Guidance - 19th July](#)

The senior leadership team have met and discussed at length how we will approach the new term, ensuring we take account of the new guidance in place, whilst ensuring the best educational experience possible and keeping our campus and community safe.

Below I have tried to summarise the key points, so you are fully aware of our approach this coming term.

What is staying the same as last year:

- Anyone presenting with symptoms should not attend school and should self isolate, book a PCR Test and await the result. [Guidance here](#).
- All students and staff should continue to test twice weekly, to ensure any asymptomatic cases are identified and reduce both transmission and infection rates. [Results should be shared here](#). We will be sharing full guidance around testing at home shortly.
- Enhanced cleaning regimes will continue throughout the school day, especially in high use/contact areas.
- Robust hand hygiene measures will continue to be in place - students will be expected to sanitise their hands on entry to the school, lessons and the dining hall.
- Ventilation of rooms throughout the school day. We have also purchased a number of Carbon Dioxide sensors to measure the air quality in key rooms in accordance with the latest guidance and will monitor these closely.

- Students and staff will all be encouraged to wear face coverings in crowded spaces as per the new guidance. In school this will typically mean students are expected to wear face coverings:
 - To assemblies
 - When lining up for the dining halls
 - In P16 Common Rooms
 - There is still the expectation that face covering will be worn on public transport and service buses.
- Clearly any student wishing to wear a face covering throughout the day is welcome to do so.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to maintain social distancing where possible.
- Movement around the school will still be largely outside the two main buildings. This will ease crowding in corridors.
- Students will enter classrooms via the external doors. In the Groby building students will still be expected to line up in the identified holding bay and wait for their teacher to collect them.
- The provision for remote learning will remain in place for any students who are self isolating or affected by COVID. Clearly this will also be available for all students absent for other authorised reasons too.
- Cars will not be permitted on the school site at the end of the school day for pick ups, so students can safely exit the site.
- We will still be operating a cashless system, so all payments should be paid via our new Weduc platform.

What will be different:

- Face coverings will no longer be expected to be worn in classrooms or corridors.
- Discrete Year Group bubbles will cease and students will be able to move freely around the site. Yr 7 will, for the first term, have a discrete zone for themselves to aid transition to school.
- There will only be sittings in the Groby dining hall for Yr 10 / 11.
- The one way system will no longer be in place around the campus.
- The end of the school day will no longer be staggered, so all students will leave at 3.10.
- Track and Trace of close contacts under the new guidance is to be run solely by the NHS. We feel this presents some challenges and risks to the system that has been effective this past year. For this reason we will continue to identify close contacts from seating plans and discussions with staff and students. Close contacts identified will be notified by the school and advised to take a PCR test. We feel this will ensure greater safety for our community.
- Students will no longer be permitted to arrive at school in their PE kits.
- The shale area will be out of bounds for students.

As you will be aware we are entering a new phase of the pandemic and there will no doubt be uncertainty and challenges to overcome. We have updated our COVID risk assessment and we will also be adopting the LA Outbreak Management Plan when it has been finalised. We will continue to work closely with the LA, PHE and DFE to ensure we minimise any disruption to your child's education but we are reliant on everyone following the guidance in place and our approach above. Your support will once again be critical in the coming months to keep our school fully operational and safe for your children and our wider community.

The outline for the first week of term is below:

COVID Testing

Following the latest government announcement about the start of the new term, I am writing to let you know we will be testing students from Monday 23 August 2021.

The timetable for testing and school start days is shown below:

Year Group	Monday 23 August	Tuesday 24 August	Wednesday 25 August	Thursday 26 August	Friday 27 August
7		Test Day*	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	2 nd Test and Normal Lessons
8				Test and Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
9				Test and Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
10			Test and Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
11			Test and Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons
Post 16	Test Day*	Dates for Normal to be confirmed in due course			

Tests on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 August:
Students will only have to attend their test time slot and parent/carers can bring them onto campus and wait. There will be no provision of school transport. There will be no need for uniform to be worn.
During week commencing 9 August we will send letters home to students in P16 and Year 7 giving information about the time slot allocated for their test.

The letter regarding Mass testing can be located [HERE](#).

Please could parents/carers of Year 7 students joining us also make sure they have read the letter below with regards to some important testing that will be taking place in the 1st week of school.

[GL Assessment Letter](#)

I hope this clarifies some of the main questions that you may have about the return to school but should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please could we also take this opportunity to remind all parents about our core expectations around uniform, make-up and jewellery which are outlined below:

[Core Expectations](#)

We look forward to welcoming your children back on to campus and enjoy the remaining days of the holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mr W Teece
Headteacher