

August 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you are well and that your family is enjoying the summer break. The purpose of this letter is to outline important information for the start of the new academic year.

The last 18 months have been challenging for us all and we hope that in the new academic year we can return to some normality. You will see that we have amended our Covid Risk Assessment but continue to follow Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England guidance. Be assured that we will continue to respond to emerging issues and prioritise student and staff wellbeing whilst providing a high quality experience for all our children.

Reminder of start of term arrangements

Wednesday 1st September 2021	Staff Training
Thursday 2nd September 2021 Students should be at school by 8.35am for the registration bell at 8.40am.	Yr 7 to attend all day (8.35am - 3.15pm) Yr 12 to attend 10.10 -12.25pm (approx) Yr 7 & 12 will have photographs taken which will be available to purchase. Yr 13 to attend from 1.00pm until 3.15pm
Friday 3rd September 2021	All pupils to attend

Students will be greeted by staff on arrival and asked to make their way to their tutor bases. Year 7 will be directed to the Main Hall when they arrive on Thursday 2nd September. A list of tutor bases and rooms is available [here](#).

Changes to Covid Risk Assessment

Our full risk assessment is accessible through this [link](#) to our website.

I also feel it is important that I draw your attention to specific changes to the operation of our school that are highlighted within our risk assessment. These changes are in response to updated DfE guidance.

1. At the start of every lesson students will sanitise their hands. There are hand sanitising containers in all classrooms and at numerous locations around the site. This continues to be part of our behaviour policy and is non-negotiable.
2. Ventilation of classrooms and indoor spaces will be prioritised. A number of measures have been put into place to improve ventilation.
3. We will continue to have a rigorous daily cleaning programme in place.
4. Face coverings will be optional in communal areas and not required in classrooms.
5. Students will attend assemblies with the rest of their year group in the Main Hall.
6. All students (consent permitting) will be tested twice with Lateral Flow Tests on their return to school in September. [Link to consent for Year 7 students](#)
7. We will no longer operate a staggered school day. All students will attend at the following times. [See timings of the school day](#).

8. Whilst contact tracing and isolation of close contacts will no longer be undertaken by the school we continue to have seating plans in place and support the NHS in identifying close contacts of anyone who develops Covid.
9. We are encouraging all sixth form students to be vaccinated before they return to school in September.
10. We will run a full extra curricular activities programme.
11. Students will have access to all elements of our curriculum, including practical work and PE. We will be following the relevant DfE and subject specialist body advice.

We all have a duty to minimise the risks to those who are vulnerable and it is important that if your child has displayed symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days, they should not come into school. This is a responsibility of parents and carers and the school must be contacted and informed if either of these scenarios are the case.

School Meals

School meals will be priced at £2.15 from September. The new price represents excellent value as for just 10p more, a drink is now included. School meals are two courses, which are a main meal and a pudding.

Uniform and equipment

All students will be expected to wear the correct uniform and have an equipment pack every day at school. Year 7 students should already have their packs and other students must have either organised their own pack or have placed an order with the school (via [ParentPay](#)).

Students will be challenged if they are not meeting our basic expectations relating to uniform and equipment. Please click here for specific information which is published on the school's website regarding uniform <http://www.whickhamschool.org/parents-information/uniform/> and equipment packs <http://www.whickhamschool.org/student-information/equipment-packs/>.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school, and hope that they will feel excited and ready for the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

F Turnbull
Headteacher