

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that your families have remained well over the summer, although I know that quite a large number of households have had cases of Covid over the summer. As always, August has passed very quickly and we are ready for the new school year.

Here are a few bits of information and reminders from the communications that went out before the summer:

LFT testing days:

You will have been given your time slot on the testing day for your son or daughter and they *should attend for their LFT test in school uniform*. This helps us to safeguard the site knowing which people should be on site.

- Year 11- today, Tuesday
- Year 9 & 10 - Wednesday
- Year 7 & 8 - Thursday

First day back at School:

All year groups return on Friday 3rd September. They need to be at the appropriate school gate by 8.35am when they will be allowed in to be ready for registration at 8.40. After 8.40 students will be marked as late. If they are late three times, a detention will be issued and anyone arriving after 8.50am will serve a late detention on the same day.

Covid safety measures:

The school will no longer ask students who are close contacts to isolate. This will be done by NHS Test & Trace, so we anticipate far fewer periods of isolation.

Students will no longer remain in bubbles, but will move around the school to their timetabled classrooms.

There will be a flow system in place that ensures that movement is less congested and students will be expected to follow this to reduce the amount of contact that they have with other Year Groups as they move around the school.

Windows will be open to provide as much air flow as possible. When the weather gets colder students are advised to wear t-shirts under their school shirts if they feel the cold.

Face coverings:

- Face coverings **will continue to be worn inside the school building** by all staff and students.
- We are currently on what is the rising third peak of the pandemic.
- Although we have only done the first morning of LFT tests, we already have had **multiple positive tests**.
- With schools returning following Reading and Leeds Festivals and the Bank Holiday weekend we need to be cautious until we see what the impact of the school return is.

- It is also possible that 12-16 year olds will be offered the vaccination soon which would be a point at which we can consider the removal of face coverings when inside the school.
- We have a responsibility to the families of our students, their grandparents and also a duty to help reduce community transmission.
- We will revisit this decision on a regular basis dependent upon infection rates and the decision as to whether 12-16 year olds will be vaccinated.

All other activities resumed:

We will be returning to all normal extra-curricular activities during and after the school day, this includes Sport, Music, Drama, Writing, Science, Art and all other extra-curricular activity. That is it for now.

We look forward to what we hope will be a much more normal year for all our students.

Kind regards

Mr Steven Haycocks

HEADTEACHER

BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)