



15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of this academic year I am writing to share our information about the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance for schools and our plans for the rest of this academic year and for September.

Updated DfE guidance

The updated guidance from the DfE includes the following key pieces of information for schools -

1. Students no longer need to be kept in consistent bubbles from 19 July. Given that we only have one week of term left we will be continuing to keep students in year group bubbles before the summer holiday. In September we will move back to year groups being timetabled across the school.
2. The responsibility for contact tracing of positive cases of children in schools will move to NHS Track and Trace from 19 July. We are awaiting further information about how this will work from September, but the School will continue to support in taking a leading role in this for the last week of term at least.
3. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a contact of a positive case. Instead they will be contacted by Track and Trace and advised to go for a PCR test. 18 year olds will be treated the same for four months after their 18th birthday to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. This will remove the need for large groups of students being asked to self-isolate when they are identified as close contacts of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19.
4. Secondary school students should have two LFT tests at a test centre before they return to school in September. Testing is not compulsory, but is strongly recommended. Schools have been given the flexibility to stagger the return of students across the first school week to manage this. We are currently exploring ways that we can do this which will minimise disruption at the start of the school year.
5. Members of staff and students are not required to test over the summer holiday period but this will start again on their return in September when they are advised to continue to test twice a week until the end of September in the first instance. Test kits will continue to be available from school for all students who have given consent for testing.

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

Whilst COVID-19 restrictions will cease nationally on 19 July we are continuing to have to ask large numbers of students to self-isolate as they have been identified as close contacts of positive cases. With cases rising in York it seems likely that other students will test positive before the end of term.

We will therefore be continuing to do everything we can to minimise the number of students who are asked to self-isolate during the rest of term and into the school holiday. This means that in addition to remaining in Year Group Bubbles, we will also expect all students, apart from those who are exempt, to continue wearing facemasks on corridors and in communal areas until the end of this term. We have discussed this measure with Public Health and they agree that this is a sensible and proportionate action to take at this time.

Staffing update

The following colleagues are leaving school at the end of this term either to retire, to start a new job or to undertake further study. We wish them well and have really appreciated all they have done for the school in the time they have worked here and in their different roles.

Mr Harrison	Site Management Team
Mrs Vallis	Head of Year and History Teacher
Mrs Muller	RE Teacher
Mrs Breslin	English Teacher, AG&T and House Competition Coordinator
Miss Dearden	Performing Arts Technician
Mrs Karbani	Teaching Assistant
Miss Colquitt	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Charwood	Cover Supervisor
Miss Mace	Attendance Officer

End of term

As usual we will be finishing school for the summer holidays slightly early on the last day, Friday 23 July. Students will be dismissed from school at the following times. If Free School Meal students require food on this day please contact the school office by the end of the school day on Wednesday 21 July.

- 12.10pm Year 8 and Year 9
- 12.20pm Year 7 and Year 10

Start of the 2021/ 22 Academic Year

We have two training days on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 September.

At this stage we are planning for Year 7 students to start school on Wednesday 8 September at 8.40am and Year 8 to come into school at 10.30am on that day. We are planning for all other year groups to start back to school at 8.45am on Thursday 9 September. These timings will be confirmed once we have full details about how COVID-19 testing will be completed before the start of the new school year as detailed above.

Structure of the School Day from September

During this school year we have operated split break and lunchtimes for different year groups. This has made it much easier for students to queue for food and to find somewhere to sit in our dining areas. We will therefore be continuing with this arrangement next year, but over two sittings. Students will be allocated to a serving point by year group and will also have an allocated outdoor space. The same food will be available at both serving points. The staggered start and end times to the day will no longer be in place from September.

The structure of the school day will be as follows from September

Time	Y7, Y8 and Y9	Y10, Y11 and Sixth Form
8.45 - 9.10	Form time/ assembly	Form time/ assembly
9.10 - 10.10	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
10.10 - 11.30	10.10 - 10.30 Break 10.30 - 11.30 Lesson 2	10.10 - 11.10 Lesson 2 11.10 - 11.30 Break
11.30 - 12.30	Lesson 3	Lesson 3
12.30 - 2.10	12.30 - 1.10 Lunch 1.10 - 2.10 Lesson 4	12.30 - 1.30 Lesson 4 1.30 - 2.10 Lunch
2.10 - 3.10	Lesson 5	Lesson 5
3.10	End of the School Day	End of the school day

Members of staff will be on duty from 8.30am each morning in September so students should not arrive before this time.

Pastoral Teams for September

We will be continuing with our new pastoral structure organised by year groups. Due to changes in staffing we have made some changes to the Progress Leaders and Pastoral Managers who are working with each year group. In September the new teams will be the ones in the table below. Colleagues have worked together to ensure that new teams are fully briefed about the students in each year group.

Year Group	Progress Leader	Pastoral Manager
7	Mr Day	Mr Decaro
8	Mr Middleton	Mrs Crotty
9	Mr Kirwan	Mrs Walshaw
10	Miss Shepherd	Mrs Foster
11	Mrs Dale	Miss Cambridge

Mr Coleman and Ms Edgar will continue to lead our Sixth Form provision and Miss Clark will provide pastoral support for students in Years 12 and 13.

New Ties

Our new year group ties will be ready for September. Students who will be in Years 8 - 11 will be issued with a new tie on their return to school after the summer holidays. There will be no charge for these ties as parents/carers have already bought one of the old school ties. Ties for the new Year 7 can be purchased from Get Branded from 1 August onwards. The new ties are a slightly different design to the old ties. Students should only wear their new tie to school.

The tie colours for each year group were chosen after a student vote. Students will wear the same tie for the duration of the time they are in school. The new colours for September 2021 are:

- Year 7 Yellow Stripe
- Year 8 Green Stripe
- Year 9 Blue Stripe
- Year 10 Red Stripe
- Year 11 Purple Stripe

Further information

At this stage we are anticipating returning to a much more 'normal' school structure and set up for the 2021/22 academic year, but further changes in DfE guidance may lead to us needing to revisit our plans again. I will write to you again before the end of the summer holiday to confirm arrangements for the start of term and to explain how to book COVID19 tests for your child before the start of the next academic year.

Thank you for your continued support for the school during what has been a very challenging academic year. Myself and the rest of the staff have been really grateful for all you have done and the support you have shown for school. This has been especially true during lockdown and periods of self-isolation when students have completed school work at home. I know that this must have been difficult for many of you as you have juggled home-schooling with work, looking after younger siblings and other commitments. Thank you.

Best wishes for a restful and healthy summer

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher