

# PARKLANDS BULLETIN 5 July - 9 July 2021 : Week 1



#### Headteacher's message

Dear parents and carers and students,

Well done to the students for engaging so well with their work during this period of closure. Whilst we all acknowledge that this is a very difficult period, continuing to complete the work set and join the Google Meet lessons will ensure students do not fall behind. Teachers are continuing to work hard to ensure the work is challenging and that students continue to make progress.

I have had a number of emails this week regarding our plans for the rest of the summer term. I have not been notified of any further cases amongst the staff, so should that remain the case then we will reopen on 12th July, as there will be sufficient staff to run school safely. Unfortunately, the government is only due to update us on the next stage of restrictions on 19th July, so all our current guidelines will remain in place when we reopen.

That means:

- 1. Students are expected to attend school.
- 2. Schools must continue to follow the guidance as laid out by the Department for Education. This can be found <u>here</u>. I know some of you will find this guidance of interest, as it explains the systems of control that we have had to implement and how to handle positive cases in the school community.

You will have seen in the national press that there has been much coverage regarding the issue of close contacts, testing, and year-group bubbles. I have also been contacted this week by the Department for Education to ensure we, like all other secondary schools in the country, have plans for September to reintroduce testing in school. The DfE will issue refreshed guidance for us, which, we hope, will have been updated since it was originally written. There is a great deal of pressure on government to amend the rules regarding self-isolation due to the enormous impact this has on students' progress, mental health and wellbeing. The current situation is certainly unsustainable.

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell

#### Message from the Department for Education

Dear School and College Leaders,

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 14 June that Step 4 of the roadmap would have to be delayed by up to four weeks.

We want to update you on plans for testing over the summer and into the autumn so you have sufficient time to plan ahead of the summer break.

This is to confirm that some key measures, such as testing and contact tracing, will stay in place until the end of the summer term. Thank you for all your efforts to encourage students and staff to test themselves twice a week at home. This is hugely important and therefore we should be grateful if you would continue to encourage this in these last few weeks of term.

Regular rapid asymptomatic testing will be paused in schools and colleges over the summer except for those that remain open, such as for summer schools and those that do not operate on a term-time basis. In these cases, we ask that those attending continue to test regularly and we will provide support to those schools and colleges in doing this. For summer schools, NHS Test and Trace will provide support with contact tracing. However, testing is still widely available and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered <u>online</u>.

Given the uncertainties around the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, we want to help schools and colleges to be prepared for all scenarios, including testing on return after the summer holidays. We will therefore provide all schools and colleges with refreshed guidance, test kits, and PPE so that they can be ready to stand up on-site Asymptomatic Test Sites (ATS) from the start of the autumn term. We expect to be able to confirm the position alongside announcements on Step 4.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and how hard teachers and staff have worked to keep schools and colleges open. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done, including on testing, to maintain education provision during the pandemic.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP Minister of State for School Standards

Gillian Keegan MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills



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### Year 7 Messages

None this week

# Year 8 Messages

HPV vaccinations: We have been informed that Intrahealth will be contacting parents/carers to arrange for their child to be vaccinated for the HPV jab during the summer break at a local facility. Any other catch-ups are now likely to take place in the autumn term unless you hear directly from the immunisation team.

## Year 9 Messages

None this week

## Year 10 Messages

Please ensure you read the email from Mrs Aspinall regarding the Year 10 assessments.

### Whole School Messages

#### Perfect 3s

Has your child continued to achieve the perfect 3 since September 2021. There are **145** pupils with the perfect 3 - Well done!

Year 7: 18 pupils Year 8: 39 pupils Year 9: 31 pupils Year 10: 28 students Year 11: 29 students Who had the perfect 3 last week? Year 7: 125 pupils Year 8: 141 pupils Year 9: 156 pupils Year 10: 125 students

Please congratulate your child if they are one of the perfect 3s! All BfL scores can be found in the Edulink app.

Weekly Learning Support Board, please click here

Shout out to all parents of pupils with unwanted, unused or outgrown uniform which is in good condition. We have signed up to Chorley Borough Scheme of collecting uniform and recycling to those in need of uniform, to help not fill landfill sites of unwanted clothes. School would be happy to collect as a base and distribution would be through our local youth zone INSPIRE. This is a great opportunity to help families out with the cost of new uniform, helps the environment by recycling unwanted uniform and keeps your wardrobes empty of unwanted clothes. Please drop off in reception FAO of Mrs Fairhurst Thank you.

#### Duke Of Edinburgh Success

Congratulations to our very first silver group! They completed their silver award. Due to Covid this has taken them over two years to finally complete so it has been a massive commitment and we are very proud of them for sticking with it during the current climate. Last weekend pupils walked from Whalley to Whitehough Outdoor Centre, their second day consisted of tackling Pendle Hill and making their way to Waddow Hall. On their final day they made their way back to Whalley! A huge amount of miles done over a warm weekend. A huge thank you to Mr Brennand who was massively involved in training our silver group!



#### Careers



As always, tons of useful information in this week's Career News! Virtual work experience opportunities, conferences, open events, art shows, courses, internships, apprenticeships, career of the week - and much much more. Have a look and make sure you get involved in as much as possible. It will look great on a CV, give you something to talk about in interviews, help you make up your mind about a particular career - what's not to like? <u>Follow the link here ...</u>