



20 July 2021

Dear parent, guardian or carer

As another incredible academic year closes, last Friday's Sports Day was the first pre-taste of a 'normal' enjoyable, whole school event involving every pupil and staff member. This final, solitary event of this type was marked by the exemplary display of great character, team-spirit and tenacity by your children. It included traditional track and field events as well as wider sporting experiences such as soft vortex missile shots, dodgeball, 'retro-fun' such as egg and spoon races, tug-of-war as well as the more serious shot put, javelin and long jump competitions. The day also revived the spirited inter-house rivalry which was gently offset by the staff involvement in 4x100m (including two fully costumed dinosaurs) and a rather regal Super-Mario drive-past. All in all, an excellent culmination to a challenging year.

The rather fatigued, but ever-important theme of caution still runs through the preparatory messages for next term, but once again so much of what we celebrate is underpinned by the values and support of so many families.

Return to a normal school life and curriculum?

Making the huge assumption that the Government's current plans for schools do not see yet another U-turn, we are delighted that students can look forward to being able to experience their curriculum in subject-specialist rooms e.g. science in laboratories, Food Technology with fridges/ovens. Accentuating the positive, there have been some practices from the last year that we will continue with:

- **Onsite Access/ Cycling:** Given the significant increase in the number of students cycling to school, we will be installing additional cycle shelters over the summer. We will continue keeping the site closed to cars between the hours of 8.10 – 8.30am and 2.50 – 3.15pm to ensure safe transit. We also wish to encourage Morebus to bring more of its services on site with fixed entry and exit times. (All cyclists are reminded they must wear a helmet and keep their bike lock and key safe for their return. Electrically powered scooters and bicycles continue to be banned.)
- **Parents' evenings:** The time efficient nature of parents' evenings using the online system has been well received. The proportion of parents attending has also been consistently higher too. We trust that our wonderful cultural enrichment curriculum will bounce back reinvigorated, thus ensuring there are still opportunities for face-to face gatherings too.

However, disappointing for some, having consulted with PE specialists and looked at annual data, the decision has been made to return to the **normal changing arrangements for PE**. This decision has not been taken lightly. Having presented some of the key facts to students this week and sought their feedback, the current arrangements whereby PE kit is worn as uniform on PE timetabled days will desist in September. The health and hygiene reasons for changing into and from kit that can get wet, sweaty and muddy are not ones which can be compromised. We cannot require students to wear wet, sweaty or muddy kit throughout the school day if it can be avoided, nor can we run a curriculum that diminishes hard physical exercise or outdoor education based upon the vagaries of the weather. The staff of the school are also very aware and sensitive to the issues that students have raised about body image. We will continue to listen further to better understand these concerns so that both our pastoral curriculum, culture of care and student voice help to shape the school's response to these issues. In the first instance, please address any views to Mr Bousfield, Asst. Headteacher (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) (a.bousfield@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk)

Results Days (Y11, 13): Please be aware that the results days for Year 11 and 13 students are as follows: 10th August for A-Level/ Level 3; 12th August for Year 11. Students will need to arrive promptly for their socially-distanced, time allocation. More detail will be communicated by a separate letter. To minimise on-site contact, **Year 10 RS examination** results will be sent home. Please be aware that the moderation processes have been incredibly rigorous. Unlike the Centre Assessed Grades last year, our Teacher Assessed Grades have included more stages than any other school I know of. The diligence of students after such a tough year cannot be overstated. You deserve a restful break and some fun, before the pre-course preparation begins in earnest.

The beginning of term in September: we are **asking all families** to ensure that they obtain a Lateral Flow Test for students to be taken the day before the first day of term for each Year Group. Please retain one from your existing stocks or order one [LFT order](#). Please add it to your calendar and allow for delivery time to ensure your child only comes on site with a negative result. Any child who receives a positive result must follow the NHS guidance and urgently inform the school by email: reception@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk.

New Year 7 students, we are advising that parents order and complete a Lateral Flow Test at home, to help students know what to expect when being supported to self-test at school. Please see the NHS [video](#).

Given that the current Covid strategy for students appears to be ‘herd immunity by infection’ rather than vaccination, we desperately hope that our messages of caution are being echoed at home about de-bunking the so-called ‘Freedom Day’ empty promise. Having seen more local positive cases this weekend than at any time in the last eighteen months, my safeguarding sensibilities about ‘populist entitlement’ trumping ‘educated caution’ have never felt so tested. Unlike others with a political agenda, our only concern is for your child’s well-being and future prospects. The maxim of ‘data rather than dates’ seems to have been forgotten at a time when the health of our students appears to be at greatest risk. I am immensely grateful to my colleagues who have spent large swathes of the hottest weekend of the year on the phone to families of students who have tested positive. As informed parents and teachers, please let us work together to ensure everyone returns well in the Autumn.

The current plan following public health guidance is for all year groups to have:

a LF test before they return; two onsite LF tests. The requirement for this will unfortunately affect start dates. The current plan notwithstanding further changes by the government is as follows:

Column 2 indicates the dates that students should undertake their Lateral Flow Test at home;

Column 3 indicates the date that students in year 8-14 should attend school just for their official on-site Lateral Flow Test and then return home. Uniform is not required, but masks are required in the test centre. We anticipate students being on site approx. 15 minutes. You will receive a letter by in-touch in the last week of the holidays to inform you of the timing for your child.

Column 4 indicates students’ first full day in school – dressed and equipped appropriately. Year 7 will be supported with their first test by our experienced team on the morning of their induction day.

Year Group	LFT completed at home	LFT at school (return home after testing)	First full day in school	2nd LFT in school (during school day)
7	02.09.21	n/a	03.09.21	09.09.21
8	31.08.21	01.09.21	06.09.21	06.09.21
9	02.09.21	03.09.21	08.09.21	08.09.21
10	01.09.21	02.09.21	08.09.21	08.09.21
11	01.09.21	02.09.21	07.09.21	07.09.21
12	31.08.21	01.09.21	03.09.21	06.09.21
13	31.08.21	01.09.21	07.09.21	07.09.21
14	31.08.21	01.09.21	07.09.21	07.09.21

Finally, some **gentle reminders** of other messages:

- School will close at 12.30pm on Wednesday 21 July.
- Please be mindful that eligibility for **Free School Meals** can be checked privately and we ensure complete anonymity in our provision onsite. Please follow the link [FSM](#) in case you might be eligible.
- A minor number of significant changes to our uniform expectations can be found on our website.
- Please do not waste your money on shoes which do not comply with our expectations. Functional compliance rather than fashionable, personal statements can best be understood [here](#) including some very tasteful additions to the PE kit. Similarly, jewellery expectations are clear. Interpretations have no credibility in this school. Piercings, beyond this – simply don't!
- Smart watches are not allowed, nor any motorised scooter or bicycle. (Sixth formers have an application process which is separate).
- Due to the royal jubilee, one of our INSET days has been commuted to Tuesday **4th January**.
- Mobile phones are just tolerated on site for safety reasons. They live in the bottom of bags switched off throughout the school day, and do not see the light of day until a student is beyond the school gate. Obviously if a student has an urgent reason to contact home, it must be considered via the Year Office.
- The Department for Education has asked me to circulate the **letter below**. Previously, the guidance changed significantly and at short notice. We shall endeavour to keep you informed to the best of our ability.

Wishing you a peaceful, safe and enjoyable summer with your families.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gray
Headteacher



Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings from the Department for Education

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.

4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. **From 16 August**, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. 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.