

6 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Start of Autumn Term 2021 – Years 8-13

I do hope that you have all had a good summer. We are all looking forward to having our students back in school and in full-time lessons from period 3 (11.00am) on Tuesday.

The current government mantra is that we need to “live alongside COVID-19”. We want to ensure that we can continue to provide high-quality on-site education provision for all our students and our view is that that is best done by exercising some caution as the vaccination programme continues to be rolled out across the population. Our aim is to ensure that we continue to provide high-quality on-site provision, and we also intend to increase the range of extra-curricular opportunities whilst following the current national and local guidance.

Lateral Flow Testing

We have been asked to test your son/daughter/ward for COVID-19 at the start of term. Students will take one test in school and then asking your son/daughter/ward to undertake the second test at home.

Please note:

- a) We will only test those with parent/carer consent (Years 7-11) or who have given their own consent (Sixth Form); and
- b) Your response from the last academic year automatically remains in effect.

If you do wish to change your mind, parents/carers of Years 7-11 can do so [here](#), and Sixth Form students can do so [here](#).

These tests aim to identify any student testing positive for COVID-19. If your son/daughter/ward tests positive, they will then be asked to self-isolate to prevent any further viral spread and then to undertake a confirmatory PCR test.

Students should then ensure that two tests are completed each week and it is also important to register the test results which can be done by opening the email that will arrive from TestRegister.co.uk.

Contact Tracing

We are no longer responsible for contact tracing as those under 18 years-old and fully vaccinated adults no longer need to self-isolate. Close contacts will be encouraged to seek a PCR test and to take part in regular testing.

Children Displaying Symptoms

Children who display symptoms should not come to school and should get a PCR test.

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The Vaccination Programme

The programme continues across Hounslow and especially in communities with high rates of unvaccinated people. All 16-17-year-olds can now get a vaccination and we would encourage them to do so. This also applies to those aged 12-15 who have clinical risks.

We await news on whether a programme will be in place for all 12-15-year-olds.

COVID-19 Safety

Handwashing/sanitising: should take place on arrival at school and should be undertaken before eating and after using the toilet. We encourage students to carry their own supply of hand sanitiser.

Face coverings are to be worn in communal indoor areas unless a student has a medical exemption. In classrooms, the wearing of a face covering will be voluntary, although we would encourage students to be sensitive to the views of others.

All rooms will be **ventilated** as much as possible, and we continue to ask all members of the community to **walk on the left** in corridors. **Cleaning** regimes remain in place, and we await the delivery of **carbon dioxide monitors** later in the term.

We will continue to monitor case rates and undertake dynamic **risk assessments** as the term progresses, adjusting our procedures should this be required.

Travel to School

Children should normally travel to school on foot or by bicycle. Clearly some will need to use public transport, but please avoid the use of private cars. Should an occasional car journey be required, under no circumstances park outside the school as this causes a potential danger for our students.

The School Day

We have made a small amendment to the school day to accommodate a 20-minute morning break and a 20-minute Study Support session at the end of the day. Students will arrive at the normal time (for 8.25am) and the end of the day will now be 3.05pm. Senior students with a period 6 on their timetable, will end the day at 4.05pm.

I look forward to seeing your son/daughter/ward back in school and thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours faithfully,



Euan Ferguson
Headteacher