



Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Testing and Contact Tracing

As the end of the term draws near, students and staff will have spent the last term doing twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests. Throughout the summer break there isn't any expectation that the students should continue to test. However, on the return to school in September, students will need to have tested negative before returning to school.

In March, when students returned, we asked students to carry out one test in the community and then the following tests were done on site. In September, we will approach it slightly differently:

- The new Year 7 students will do two tests on site, 2nd September, and 6th September. Further details will be sent about this separately
- Students in Years 8-13 will collect a home test kit from the school and then take a test on Sunday 5th September before returning to school on Monday 6th.

The collection times for these tests are as follows:

- Wednesday 1st September: 10 am to 4.30pm
- Thursday 2nd September: 9am to 4.30pm
- Friday 3rd September: 9am to 4.30pm

From Monday 19th July, we move into Step 4 of the government's plan and as a result, there are some changes in terms of how schools support contact tracing. The year group 'bubbles' will remain in place until the end of term.

From Step 4, September 2021, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

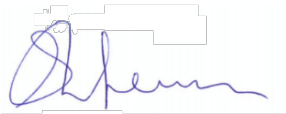
From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old **will no longer be required to self-isolate** if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they

have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Year 13s will be treated in the same way as other students until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

This change in legislation will affect the school from September but we are just raising your awareness now.

Kind Regards



Mrs Jenner

Headteacher