



7 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families have enjoyed the Summer break. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming our students back into school this week. Below is some information which I would like to bring to your attention with regards to procedures for the forthcoming year.

### **Mixing and 'Bubbles'**

The DfE are no longer recommending that it is necessary to keep children in consistent year group bubbles. Assemblies can resume and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunchtimes. However, we have chosen to separate KS3 and KS4/Post 16 breaks and lunch breaks. Please use this link to see the arrangements for the school day for this academic year: <https://bit.ly/3kXlIKd>

### **Close Contacts Tracing and Isolation**

Close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace will identify close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 by working with the positive case and/or their parents. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they 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. Children aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

### **Face coverings**

It is no longer recommended that that students and staff wear a face covering in classrooms or communal areas. Of course, staff or students may choose to wear a face covering on corridors or communal areas. If they do so, the expectation is that they supply their own and be responsible for wearing and storing them appropriately and cleaning or replacing them as required. Face coverings must be plain or with a very simple pattern.

However, there are circumstances where face coverings would be recommended and reintroduced, for example if there is a substantial increase in cases of COVID-19 and we are advised to do so by Public Health England.

For your knowledge, the updated DfE guidance on managing coronavirus (COVID-19) in education and childcare settings can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3BKloOU>



### PE Kit

Students will be expected to attend school each day in their normal uniform and will change into their PE kits prior to a PE lesson.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West  
Principal