

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you have all had some time to rest and enjoy the summer. Please find detailed below arrangements for the start of the new academic year.

Covid-19 restrictions from September 2021

Many of the Covid restrictions have now lifted following government guidance and we will no longer operate bubbles for pupils.

The main measures we have in place are:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
- An updated risk assessment which will be shared with staff.
- A contingency plan for increased measures should cases rise.

How you can help:

1. Main measures

To support us in promoting good hygiene with our pupils, please ensure that your child continues to regularly wash their hands. This is an important measure to reduce transmission.

2. Vaccines

Vaccination is effective in protecting people against Covid. More and more people in Sheffield have been vaccinated. We encourage everyone to take up the vaccines.

Getting vaccinated is the most important thing you and your family can do to help stop the virus. As well as all those 18 years and over, vaccination is now being offered to those aged 16 and 17 years. They can get their vaccine at several places across the city with or without an appointment. You can find further details on vaccination sites here: www.bit.ly/sheffvaccination

If you haven't booked your own vaccination or haven't had your second dose, please arrange to do so as soon as you can. You can book online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or call 119 free of charge to make an appointment.

3. Testing

Testing continues to be important.

During the course of the first week back pupils, whose parents have consented, will take two lateral flow tests. Pupils will be called from class within Forms to take these.

It is important that pupils then continue to test twice a week at home, at least until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Staff will be asked to continue to test twice a week at home, at least until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

4. Face Masks

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. Wearing a face mask in school is now a personal choice.

We will follow the government guidance and our approach is in line with Chris Whitty's (England Chief Medical officer) 3-part rule of thumb for continuing to wear a face mask:

- in crowded indoor spaces
- when required to by an authority
- to make someone else feel comfortable

We will continue to follow the **4 E's** in line with the updated approach:

- **Expect:** we will expect pupils and all adults to wear a face covering in an enclosed crowded space (this does not include classrooms)

- **Enable:** we will provide a face covering for any pupils who wishes to have one but doesn't yet have their own

- **Encourage:** we will encourage each other to take responsibility for our own personal safety and to make the right choice to ensure we all feel safe and cared for.

- **Educate:** everyone will learn why, how and when it is appropriate to wear a face covering.

If there is a medical reason or another reason why staff or pupils cannot wear a facemask then they do not have to wear one, this should be discussed with the Headteacher.

Masks are not expected to be worn in classrooms by staff or pupils.

Visitors to all schools will continue to be expected to wear a face mask at all times where they are in enclosed spaces and social distancing is not possible.

5. Symptoms:

If your child has Covid symptoms, they must not come into school. They should go for a PCR test and isolate.

6. If a pupil is identified as a contact of a positive Covid case:

You may be contacted by NHS Test & Trace or the school and informed that your child has been identified as a contact. They will not need to isolate but will need to book and attend for a PCR test. They will be able to continue to attend school if they have no symptoms and are well. If the test is positive or they have symptoms they must then isolate. Others in the household will not be required to isolate if they are fully vaccinated or are below the age of 18 years and 6 months.

Pupils' return to school on 6th September 2021

As with previous starts of a new academic year, school will return on a staggered basis on Monday the 6th September. This is to allow Year 7 to have a less daunting start. The timings of the day are as follows:

Year 7	Normal school start time of 8.40am	Pupils to wait outside the front of the school building. They will be escorted to the sports hall where they will be met by their Form Tutor.
Year 8, 9, 10 and 11	10am start	Pupils to arrive via the pupil entrance and go to their form room.
Year 12	9am start	Students to arrive via the pupil entrance and go to their form room.
Year 13	9.30am start	Students to arrive via the pupil entrance and go to their form room.

Normal lessons will start at 11am once pupils have been given their new timetables, planners and attended assembly.

Break and Lunch Time

Pupils will take break and lunch as follows

Break

11.00 – 11.15am	Year 7, 11 and 6 th Form
11.15 – 11.30am	Year 8 and 10
11.30 – 11.45am	Year 9

Lunch

12.15 – 12.45pm	Year 7, 11 and 13
12.45 – 1.15pm	Year 8 and 10
1.15 – 1.45pm	Year 9 and 12

School Uniform and Equipment

All pupils must wear full school uniform and I hope we can avoid having to send pupils home to change because they are not in the correct uniform. Our uniform policy can be found [here](#), including guidance on piercings, hair colour and nails.

Please note that from 6th September, PE kit is to be brought into school on the day that your child has PE on their timetable. Your child will no longer wear their PE kit to school. They will be expected to change into their own PE kit at the start of the lesson.

We are all looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school and I am sure we will have a fantastic start to the new term.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Barrowclough
Headteacher

