



07th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter earlier in the week, as promised, I have reviewed the DfE guidance which I have attached below. This guidance is for Special Schools; it was released on 6th July and applies until 4th September.

You may be aware that the intention is for "Step 4" to be implemented on 19th July. This is subject to confirmation next week but if this goes ahead as planned then the guidance attached will apply.

I will let you read this for yourself, but will highlight the main areas:

- 'bubbles' will no longer be recommended (*for operational ease we will continue with our playtimes/lunchtimes etc as they are until the end of the term*).
- assemblies will be allowed to go ahead after 19th July
- school will no longer be required to carry out contact tracing as these will be identified by NHS
- face coverings will no longer be advised either in classrooms, communal areas, school transport or public transport (*if members of staff wish to wear face coverings in communal areas then this is their personal choice and I would support that*)
- Staff and students should not come into school if they have symptoms of COVID and if anyone develops the symptoms (however mild) should return home and follow public health advice
- Households should follow the stay at home guidance for possible cases of COVID <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- All secondary pupils should receive 2 LFT 3-5 apart on their return to school.
- Students and staff are not expected to test over the summer months unless they are participating in school-based activities (such as summer school)
- Staff should continue to do twice weekly testing when we return to school.

For us try and get ourselves organised we will be in touch shortly with our secondary parents and carers to arrange consent where applicable for your child to be tested twice in school when we return after the holidays. As you know, I will not insist that children as for some of our children this would be too distressing, and I would support your decision around this.

From 16th August, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS as a close contact of a +COVID case; instead they will be asked to take a PCR test.

From 16th August, double vaccinated adults will no longer be required to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with a COVID+ case.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/send-and-specialist-settings-additional-operational-guidance-coronavirus-covid-19>

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It seems as though forever I have been saying to you that the end is in sight. I am sure that we can all see light at the end of the tunnel now and although this has been much more of a marathon than a sprint, we can see the finish line now.

I'll be in touch again before the term is out, and you will also be receiving your child's report very soon.

It goes without saying that if you need anything, you know where I am.

Michelle Farr
Headteacher

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