

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021



Dear parent/carers

### **Re: End of year arrangements and September 2021 return information**

I am writing to confirm the end of term arrangements and details regarding the start of the new academic year in September 2021.

Our last day of term is **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021**. Pupils will leave school on a staggered basis from 1.50pm onwards. Year 7 will leave at 1.50pm, Year 8 at 1.55pm and Year 9 and 10 at 2pm.

### **Information about September 2021**

Our pupils will have to be tested for Coronavirus upon their return to school in September. Each pupil will be tested twice, once before they start school and another once they have returned. If you have previously provided consent for your child to be tested in school, for example the March mass tests, you do not need to do so again. However if you didn't previously but would now like to provide consent for your child to be tested please follow the [link here](#).

We are planning to test Year 7 and 11 pupils on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of September so that they can start school as planned on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Year 8, 9 and 10 will be tested on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September ready for a return to school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Year	Test 1	School start date	Test 2
7	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
8	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
9	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
10	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
11	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September

Further information will be provided regarding the specific time slots for each test.

### **Coronavirus**

The school will follow the latest guidance from the Department of Education and take the following steps from September:

- Year group bubbles and zones will be removed, including at lunch and break, and social distancing will no longer be required, allowing pupils to move freely around the site with their peers.
- No pupils or staff will be required to wear face coverings but can if they choose to.
- All our teachers will be located in their own classrooms and department areas, pupils will move around the site to access their lessons in the same way they did prior to Covid.
- Pupils will no longer be asked to isolate by the school. The management of contacts of positive cases will come through the NHS Track and Trace service. The school will no longer provide Track and Trace services but will work with the NHS service when required.
- Face to face assemblies will resume.
- After school clubs and activities will continue without prior restrictions.
- School trips will be reintroduced.

## Control measures

The school will continue to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone by ensuring our pupils wash their hands frequently and by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes including additional day time cleaning of frequently used spaces.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated by opening doors and windows.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Twice weekly home testing will be encouraged into the Autumn.

## The new school day

The timings and structure of the school day have been changed so that we can include more Personal Development lessons at the start and have a split lunch. The table below has the new timings and structure.

Time	Period
8.50-9.15am	Personal development
9.15-10.15am	P1
10.15am-11.15am	P2
11.15-11.30am	Break
11.30-12.30pm	P3
12.30-2pm	P4/Lunch
12.30-1pm	Y7, 8, 10 lunch
1pm-2pm	Y7, 8, 10 P4
12.30-1.30pm	Y9 and 11 P4
1.30-2pm	Y9 and 11 lunch
2pm-3pm	P5

Year 7, 8 and 9 will enter and exit school from the main entrance on Handsworth Grange Road.

Year 10 and 11 will enter and exit from the Beaver Hill Road car park entrance.

## School uniform

Our pupils are expected to wear full school uniform. Please note that black jeans or leggings are not part of the uniform policy. Our pupils will need to bring their PE kit to change into as they will have access to the changing rooms in September. Further information about our school uniform and PE kit can be found on the school website.

## Equipment

All pupils will need the usual school equipment of bag, planner, pen, pencil, ruler, pencil case, calculator and reading book. Planners will be issued by school when students return in September.



## Attendance

It is extremely important that pupils attend school regularly and punctually. Our attendance team will inform parents/carers when attendance drops below the 97% Trust target. If your child has any appointments please provide school with a letter, appointment slip or text; if no evidence is received then this will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Absence needs to be reported each day that your child is not attending school. If absence goes unreported then our attendance team will make a home visit.

More detailed information about attendance can be found on the school website in the parent attendance booklet.

Further information, including the latest guidance on Coronavirus testing, is available on the school website.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our pupils, parents and carers for your support, understanding and kind words of encouragement you have given me and the staff during these challenging and unprecedented times. I look forward to returning to some level of normality in September and wish you all a well earned summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nick Parker'.

Nick Parker  
Headteacher