

Dear Families,

Despite the challenges of this year, it is amazing how quickly the time has gone. We have had another difficult year of home learning, but staff and students have done a fantastic job of maintaining an excellent standard of education throughout.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the way in which you have adapted and supported us at every step and, as we enter the final half term of this academic year, I would like to share some information about routines for when we return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

The government continue to update us with their roadmap out of lockdown and advice is still changing regularly. The new variant of concern, which originated in India, is something that we are asked to remain vigilant about. This means that staff will continue to wear masks where they cannot social distance and we are encouraging all of our adults who are eligible to be vaccinated.

#### **Uniform expectations:**

- We will continue the arrangements for the next half term for students to arrive in PE kit on the days when they have PE. Non-uniform hoodies/jumpers are not permitted. Students should wear a school hoodie for PE or their blazer if they do not have one. Blazers will be removed for PE lessons. Students can wear leggings under their skort/shorts, or jogging bottoms over the top of their skort/shorts to keep them warm throughout the day. Students should not be wearing leggings/jogging bottoms on their own, as correct uniform is required for PE.
- Please ensure your child wears their blazers for school and a v-neck knitted jumper if they wish.
- Skirts should be worn at the correct length (not rolled) and trousers should be within our uniform guidelines (not skinny or ponte style).
- From September, we will hopefully be able to revert back to students coming to school in their normal uniform and changing for PE when they have it. We have secured funding to refurbish our changing rooms to make them a better space for students, and we expect this work to be completed for the new school year.

#### **Lateral flow testing and attendance to school:**

Within Staffordshire the numbers of positive cases is currently low, but it remains important to test twice weekly with a lateral flow device. Test days are every Sunday and Wednesday, including over the half term break. All results should be reported accurately via the QR code or via <http://bit.ly/3rfzu6p>. With 1 in 3 cases asymptomatic, the strategy to test those without symptoms is crucial to keeping cases low.

Students should not attend school if they have one of the three main Covid-19 symptoms, even if they have had a negative lateral flow test. Symptomatic children and adults should confirm their status with a PCR test, not a lateral flow device. Please report any positive tests into school and via the NHS website.

Students should not attend school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- A temperature
- A persistent cough
- A loss or change in the sense of taste or smell

### **Lunchtime arrangements:**

With year 11 and 13 students no longer being in school, we have reviewed the arrangements for lunchtime.

Year 10 will have their mock exams from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June and will move to the early timings for break and lunch so that they can have lunch before their afternoon exams.

The table below will be shared with your children in an online assembly on the first day back after half term.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Start of school day</b>	<b>Break time</b>	<b>Allocated toilets/indoor</b>	<b>Lunch time</b>	<b>End of school day</b>
7	8.30am – line up with form tutor first	10.50am	Music toilets/corridor only	1.10pm	2.50pm
8	8.30am – line up with form tutor first	10.50am	English (not along corridor)	1.10pm	2.50pm
9	8.30am – straight to form	9.50am	Music toilets/corridor only	12.10pm	2.50pm
10	8.30am – straight to form	9.50am	English (not along corridor)	12.10pm	2.50pm

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, students will come into school and stay with their form tutor for period 1. We want to ensure students have time with their tutors to support them as they prepare for the next academic year. We will be reminding students of the school expectations and the routines that are in place to keep everyone safe.

We are hopeful that the weather will improve further in June and July to enable students to make the most of the outside spaces at break and lunchtime but there will be occasions where there are wet breaks/lunches. If the weather is wet we do allow students to stay in classrooms. Please talk to your children about making sure they are not walking around the building or mixing bubbles by meeting up with other year groups, when they should be in classrooms. This not only increases the risk to their safety, but it significantly disrupts learning of children who are in lessons at that time.

We will also be reintroducing home learning (homework) this term, to support students with building their knowledge and engagement in our curriculum.

Finally, look out for our House System updates. Students are already allocated to a House and we will be working hard to ensure students have lots of opportunities to achieve House Points and rewards.

Thank you again for your continued support. I hope you all have a really lovely half term break and make the most of the sunshine.

Best wishes

**Ms N Mason**  
**Head of School**