

13th December 2021

Dear All,

As we near the end of the autumn term, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding in a time that is most certainly not yet back to 'normal'.

It has been a particularly challenging time for our families and for our staff as we try to support all of our children in such uncertain times. The messages of support that many of you have sent in, and the consistent support of our families is so valuable to us, and I wish to thank all of you that have taken the time to contact us. It means a lot.

In January, the government guidance for schools indicates that students should be tested with a lateral flow device ahead of a return to school. To enable schools to do this, there will be a slightly staggered start to the beginning of term. For CTA this means that on Tuesday 4th January year groups 10, 11, 12 and 13 will come into school for a test and will then go home. Their first day back in school for lessons will be on Wednesday 5th January. Year groups 7, 8 and 9 will come into school for a test on Wednesday 5th January and will then go home following their test. **All year groups will be in school as normal from Thursday 6th January.** A schedule with timings on for year groups will be sent via MyEd app and will be put on our website before the end of term. Please look out for this communication.

We are trying to keep things as normal as possible in school and are doing our best to ensure students have a 'normal' school experience. To enable us to do more of the things that students enjoy, such as extra-curricular clubs at lunchtime, and using more of our facilities such as the library, we are going to move to a single break and lunchtime from January. Students will be zoned, as they are now, with year 7 staying on their own dedicated courtyard; year 8 and 9 will be on the Tech courtyard; and year 10 and 11 will be on the 6th form car park area. We understand that most students have not been with other year groups before but as areas are outside we consider the risk to be minimised. We also think it will help students to build relationships and feel a greater sense of community with their peers. With all students on lunch at the same time we will introduce two sittings for lunch service – KS3 at 1.10pm and KS4 at 1.25pm. If there is a wet breaktime or lunchtime students will be able to go to classrooms so that we can supervise effectively and keep them dry. We will be able to increase our supervision at break and lunchtimes as all staff will be available.

Behaviour routines will be a big focus for us at Chase Terrace Academy in the spring term. We know how hard it has been for our children and their families to have so much disruption over the last 18 months, and we are keen to support. We have simple rules and non-negotiables at CTA and we have high expectations for our students to challenge them to be independent and well-rounded young people. Taking responsibility for actions and making sure the culture is focused on aiming high and being the best you can be is crucial to success. The motto we use here is that 'a high tide raises every ship' – in other words, whatever your starting point, and whoever you are, if expectations and challenge are high, this raises the chance of success for everyone. Please talk to your children about the importance of our rules in school and that we will be consistently applying our behaviour policy to ensure we are giving all of our children the best chance of success.

Rewards are also really important to us and the House System events have been a brilliant way for students to get involved in the life of the school. We have lots more planned to support and reward students in school when they do meet expectations or go above and beyond.

As the weather gets colder we are going to allow students to wear their coats in the building during break and lunch only to help them to move from their outside area to the dining hall more freely. Coats should not be worn in the building at any other time. Hoodies are banned and should not be worn in the building at any time. Students are able to wear school hoodies in PE lessons only. Students who arrive for school wearing a hoodie will be expected to leave them at the Year Office.

We have shared our expectations with students in assemblies this week and talked to them about rewards for meeting them, and sanctions where they are not. We are keen to ensure that all of our children maximise learning time, arriving to class on time, and staying in class. All children have the opportunity to use the toilet facilities every hour in between lessons, and at break and lunchtime. If you feel your child needs a toilet pass please do get in touch so that this can be arranged for them.

Thank you again for your support over these difficult times. The challenges continue and we are committed to doing what we do best – tackling the difficult times together as a team. That team involves all of us, our students, their families, our staff and the wider community. Please do get in touch if you need our support. Now more than ever we need to be in this together and be kind to each other.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and New Year, and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,



Ms N Mason
Head of School