

20 July 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: Key information for the start of next term

As we approach the end of a second unusual year, I am writing to you with an end of term update and to provide some information for the new school year.

Thank you for your continued support and patience over the last eighteen months. As you are no doubt aware, new guidance has been issued to schools as part of step 4 of the government's plan to ease COVID restrictions. Hopefully this means that schools will feel a lot more normal from September 2021.

Covid safety measures

The safety and educational welfare, of our staff and students, remains of paramount importance. Although many restrictions will be lifted by September, there are still a number of things we will need to do to mitigate risk of the transmission of COVID-19 in school.

Firstly, as before, we will be minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

There will be extensive promotion of good respiratory hygiene throughout the school ('catch it, bin it, kill it'), as well as frequent opportunities for hand sanitation, to reduce the transmission of the virus. All of our classrooms and communal areas are fitted with sanitising stations; staff and students will sanitise their hands upon entry and exit. We are increasing ventilation in our classrooms and communal areas, ensuring that windows are open as well as encouraging students to use our outdoor spaces during break and lunchtimes as much as they can.

We will continue to use additional cleaners to carry out an extensive cleaning programme throughout the day (in addition to the end of the school day) to ensure any communal areas and frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and sanitised.

Aspects of the one-way systems will be retained and some aspects of the school day will remain staggered (see school day below).

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff or visitors, either in classrooms or in communal areas. Face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport.

Please note, that we have been asked to have a contingency framework of “potential measures and operating procedures to help manage an outbreak in our setting, where there is extremely high prevalence in community, and/or to respond to a variant of concern.” In these circumstances we have been advised that, a director of public health might advise us that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). We will, of course, inform you if we are advised that this applies to us at any point in the future.

School Day

Next term we are returning to teaching five lessons of sixty minutes each day. However, we are retaining some elements of our staggered breaks and lunchtimes as this has reduced congestion around canteens and the additional calmness has been welcomed by students. The start and end times of the day will return to normal and are no longer staggered. Students must ensure they are on site at 8.40 am; period 1 now starts at 8.45 am.

Timings of the School Day

08.40	All students must be onsite prior to moving to period 1
08.45 - 9.50	Lesson 1
09.50 - 11.15	Lesson 2 and morning break (staggered)
11.15 - 12.15	Lesson 3
12:15 - 13:25	Lunchtime (staggered) and tutor period
13.25 - 14.25	Lesson 4
14.30 - 15.30	Lesson 5

Lateral Flow Test Arrangements

If you haven't had the opportunity to provide consent and would like to do so, please complete the consent form by scanning this code:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FQwRfuQAF0eCEfeLYA6iFN_Ph2sd8bxFIIGP2W8OmxhUMzRJWDU4NEJYUjcwTIQ5QUFWUDdINVEzMC4u



Details of how to book an appointment on your allotted day, and how to register the test will be sent to you in a separate letter.

Students should arrive via the main entrance a few minutes before their allotted appointment time and make their way to the old sports centre, following the clear on-site signage. If you are bringing your child to school for the test, please park in the visitor car park and remain in your car whilst your child attends their appointment.

On arrival to the test centre, students will be welcomed by a member of staff they know and will be directed to the registration table. They will receive clear instructions on how to administer the test. The testing process takes approximately five minutes; once this is

complete, your child will be allowed to leave. Test results take approximately thirty minutes and students will be informed of their result via the email or mobile number they used to register their test on the NHS website.

Students will receive their second test 3 to 5 days later and this will happen once they are back in school.

Positive LFD test and confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within two days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case, and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

First Day Arrangements

Year 7 and Year 12 students will return to school on **Tuesday 7 September** with all year groups attending from **Wednesday 8 September**. Our new Year 7 cohort will receive a separate letter from Mr Fisher outlining the arrangements for their first day. All year groups will be asked to go their tutor rooms for period 1 on Wednesday 8 September for an extended tutor period. Tutors will welcome students back to school and ensure they fully understand our expectations, routines and procedures. Lessons will commence as normal from period 2.

Pastoral Arrangements

In September, most students will remain with their existing Head of Year. However, as you may be aware, Mr Wilson has now left us for pastures new and Mrs Jude has taken over responsibility for Year 7 moving into Year 8. Mrs Jude will remain Head of Year 8 until Ms White returns from maternity leave next year. Mrs Kirby, a very experienced pastoral leader, will join the team as Head of Year 7 in September and the whole team will be supported by the appointment of Miss Dee, as additional pastoral support. Full details of our pastoral team (and their contact details) can be found in the student planner, on our website and on the attached leaflet.

When we return in September, the student planner will remain key to our Behaviour for Learning Policy. We are making some small amendments to our policy, based on student and staff feedback, and students will be made fully aware of all of our expectations and routines during the first tutor period in September. A summary of the Behaviour for Learning Policy can be found in the student planner, but the full policy can be viewed on our website.

If you have any particular concerns about your child's return to school in September, please either contact your child's Head of Year or during the school holidays contact the school via the following email: office@driffieldschool.org.uk.

Uniform and Equipment

Preparing for your child's return to school in September is a good time to check your child's uniform to ensure they start the new academic year with the correct uniform and

equipment. All students are expected to return to school in full school uniform, including wearing a tie. If you are unsure of the uniform requirements, you can find the full policy on our website.

Also attached is a leaflet outlining the dress code and examples of costs. Please be careful if purchasing items labelled as 'school uniform' from popular high street stores. These items do not necessarily meet the requirements for our dress code. If you are in any doubt about the suitability of any item (especially trousers or shoes) please check with your child's Head of Year.

Please note that students will also need to bring a pair of clean, dry trainers to wear for indoor PE and drama.

Site improvements

This summer we will be investing £650,000 in the maintenance and development of the East Building. The main project will see the replacement of the old roof and facias over the summer.

In addition to the roof work, we will be repurposing East Canteen which is currently disused. The canteen and kitchen areas are being opened up and re-purposed into a custom designed, central space for assemblies and other whole year group events.

New Website

Over the last few terms we have been developing our website and we are excited to be able to launch our new website from the end of the term. The new website can be accessed at www.driffieldschool.org.uk. This site has been designed to allow parents and carers to easily navigate and find information they might require as well as quickly access the latest news and communications.

Good Bye, Thank you and Good Luck

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye, thank you and good luck to staff members leaving us this summer. I would particularly like to mention three long serving members of staff, Linda Calvert (31 years), Fiona Green (24 years) and Nick Fleet (39 years). They have all worked tirelessly and made a significant difference to the lives of thousands of students during their time at Driffield School; I know they will be very much missed. I am sure you join with us in saying a huge 'thank you' for all they have done and send them our very best wishes for their well-earned retirement.

Wishing you and your families a lovely summer.

Best wishes,



Mr Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal