



Headteacher
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Sandhurst School

the opportunity to succeed

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15th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

Re: Return to School – September 2021

Following the announcement last week by the Secretary of State for Education and Monday's announcement regarding the COVID regulations in Stage 4, we are now able to update you on our plans for September.

These have altered slightly from some we shared earlier regarding the return to school dates. We have had to make some changes because of the need to complete two onsite lateral flow tests at the start of term.

The arrangements for the start of the term in September 2021 are detailed below:

Wednesday 1 st September	INSET Day and preparation / set up for onsite testing
Thursday 2 nd September	Onsite testing for Years 7, 11 and Sixth Form (all students come to school for the test and return home once test is complete)
Friday 3 rd September	Onsite testing for Years 8, 9 and 10 (all students to come to school for the test and return home once test complete)
Monday 6 th September	Year 7 & 12 come to school and will have their second testing during their induction day. Year 7 and 12 will remain in school all day. Year 11 & 13 to come to school to be tested and return home once test is complete.
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 11 & 13 join Year 7 & 12 in school for lessons Years 8, 9 and 10 come into school for their second COVID test and return home
Wednesday 8 th September	All students in all year groups return to school for lessons

A separate letter regarding specific times for the onsite testing dates, consent forms and further information will follow.

The School Day

Whilst 'bubbles' are no longer required and students from different year groups are permitted to mix at break and lunch, we have decided to retain the separate breaks for the time being. This is because we feel they work well and students have more space, access to toilet facilities, the canteen and playground space. It is also because we will have reduced space until the end of November until the roof is completed on the music, drama, MFL and history rooms.

We will continue with the arrival to school from **8:30am** and students should go to lesson one on their arrival where at 8:40am, they will be registered, have uniform checks, hear whole school announcements and bulletin information. We found this gives a calm start to the day and ensures students are supported on arrival. Lesson one will begin at 8:50am. Students arriving after 8:40am will be marked late.

All students will have two twenty minutes breaks in the day. This does give sufficient time for everyone to be able to each lunch and go through the canteen.



Lessons will continue to be one hour long and all students will have 20 minutes with their tutor at the end of every day. With school finishing at 2:50pm.

We have had to make the decision to revert to tutor groups based around year groups rather than the vertical tutors groups we have had for the past 8 years. Whilst we are aware the government has said that there is no requirement for 'bubble' system in schools, we have also been told that in the event of an outbreak in a school or region we would need to be able to implement the bubble system immediately. This would mean that our vertical tutor groups would give us limited opportunity to run our tutor and pastoral programme. All students have been informed of this and have been finding out their new groups and their tutors over the course of the past week.

We will also send details home to all parents to confirm tutor groups and the name of your child's tutor. All children will remain in the same house and will be in groups of around 25 students from the same year and the same house.

Timetables will be emailed to parents of Year 7 and parents and students of Years 8 to 13 before the start of term. Paper copies will be provided for students on their first day in school.

September Dates and Events

We intend, following overwhelming feedback in favour of online parents evenings to continue with this next year. We are hoping to host the information evening for new Year 7 parents in school but it is most likely we will host the others online. If we do feel able to host these in school we will film the presentation so anyone not able to come into school can view the evening's presentation. The calendar dates for these will remain the same as attached but we are mindful we need to be flexible as to whether they are in school or not. We will be able to make these decisions in September.

School Uniform

We would be very grateful if every effort is made over the school holiday to ensure your child is dressed in the full and correct uniform when they return to school in September. I attach a copy of our uniform list to support you in this endeavour. If students are planning to have facial piercings or ear piercings in areas other than their earlobe during the summer holiday, we would request that they are done sufficiently early so that the student is able to remove the jewellery when they return to school. We realise that replacing uniform can be costly and we do have a store of nearly-new uniform which can be purchased at reduced prices. If your family is experiencing significant financial hardship, prohibiting the purchase of new uniform, please contact your child's Head of House for assistance.

Our uniform list is now in line with requirements and is non-gender specific but the items remain the same. No new purchases are required. This means that for example all students may wear a shirt with button collar and tie or they may choose to wear a reverse collar shirt/blouse without a tie (previously only permitted for girls). All students may wear black tailored trousers, previously only permitted for boys.

Also please be reminded that summer uniform – polo shirt instead of shirt and blazer is permissible until the Monday 4th October 2021.

Facemasks

The latest guidance regarding masks is that they are no longer required in school. However the guidance also states that they may be required on public and school transport where prevalence is high. Some students and staff may choose to bring a mask to school and that is fine and we will apply common sense to manage any developing situations.

I wish you all a lovely summer and we will update you with any changes we are required to make should legislation change.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs D Smith
Headteacher

