



CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility.

9 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Start of the Academic Year

1. COVID-19

On Tuesday 6 July 2021, Health Secretary Sajid Javid and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson addressed the House of Commons regarding changes to restrictions in line with the latest step of the roadmap. Gavin Williamson outlined that step four "does not mean the end of the pandemic, but the government is moving to a new phase of managing COVID".

It is important to note that changes published will come into place after 19th July, only if step 4 of the roadmap is agreed.

The main changes relate to:

- Testing requirements for secondary students on return in September;
- Removal of the requirement to prevent mixing and keep consistent 'bubbles';
- Removal of contact tracing responsibilities;
- Self-isolation of close contacts will not apply to under 18s or those who have been 'double jabbed' (from 16th Aug);
- Addition of PCR tests instead of self-isolation for close contacts;
- Face coverings no longer required;
- Removal of the need to stagger start and end times;
- Removal of restrictions on gatherings and group sizes.

Additionally, new DfE guidance on the ways in which schools should operate in response to COVID 19 aligned to step 4 of the roadmap were published. These included changes to the control measures:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
 - Students/staff should not be on site if they have symptoms;
 - Staff and students with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with guidance;
 - Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate;
 - If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the student/staff member can return to school.

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Please see below how we intend to start the academic year, however this may be subject to change if local or national guidance changes over the summer holidays. In that event, a separate communication will be sent.

Wednesday 1 September (Non-Pupil Day)

Staff Training Day – Main Hall/Faculty Offices

All secondary school students should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term*. Years 7 and 11 will be invited in at the following times:-

Year 11 (8.00 am – 9.30 am) – students to wear normal clothing.

Year 7 (10.30 am – 1.30 pm) – students to wear normal clothing.

*Testing is encouraged for the safety of all, but is not mandatory.

Students should enter via the main reception during their testing window, enter the Sports Hall and complete registration and their own swab. Students are then to leave via the fire door (by bike shed) and leave the site. It is not appropriate for parents to accompany students onto the school site, however they may wait at the front gate or outside of the school grounds. Students may leave as soon as they have completed their self-swab.

For our new Year 7 cohort that have not been through the process before, a separate communication regarding the testing procedure will be shared under a separate cover.

Following a negative result, Year 11 & 7 students can start their formal face to face interactions will staff the next working day.

Year 8, 9 and 10 students should remain at home.

Thursday 2 September – Years 7 & 11 ONLY

Year 7 & 11 students will complete a normal school day and all students should be on site between 7.50 am and 8.05 am. Any student that arrives after 8.05am will be marked as late.

The following cohorts will then be invited in for lateral flow testing.

Year 10 (8.15 am – 9.45 am) – students to wear their normal clothing.

Year 9 (10.00 am – 11.30 pm) – students to wear their normal clothing.

Year 8 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm) – students to wear their normal clothing.

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Students may leave as soon as they have completed their self-swab, following exactly the same process as previously mentioned. It is not appropriate for parents to accompany students onto the school site, however they may wait at the front gate or outside of the school grounds.

Friday 3 September

Normal lessons for ALL students.

Monday 5 September

Normal lessons for ALL students, however Years 7 and Year 11 will be called out of lessons, one tutor group at a time, to complete a second lateral flow test. Upon completion, students will collect home testing kits on exit from the Sports Hall and will then be requested to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the DfE.

Tuesday 6 September

Normal lessons for ALL students, however Years 8, 9 and 10 will be called out of lessons, one tutor group at a time, to complete a second lateral flow test. Upon completion, students will collect home testing kits on exit from the Sports Hall and will then be requested to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the DfE.

2. Start/End of School Day

From the 2nd September 2021, the school will revert back to all students starting and finishing at the same time. All students should arrive on site between 7.50 am and 8.05 am, in line with our morning address procedure. Any student that is not present on site at 8.05 am will receive a late mark and parents will receive a text message informing them of this.

Furthermore, all students will finish at 2.10 pm. A series of enrichments, interventions, fixtures and corrections will then operate after this time.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Hockey
Headteacher

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