

14 July 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Preparing for September 2: Testing and the start of term

I am writing to advise you of the current position regarding the start of term in September. After a very difficult year, we are planning to return to near normal operations, following the Government's announcement of moving to Step 4 of the National Roadmap from 19 July.

Covid testing in the holidays and from September

You will have seen that although restrictions are being lifted, there are still growing concerns around the increase in cases, especially amongst the younger age groups. Whilst students are not required to test during the holiday period, I would strongly recommend that we all continue to do this. Further information on how you can access home testing kits is [available here](#).

Similar to the return to school after the lockdown in March, all secondary schools are expected to carry out Lateral Flow Tests with all students before they return to face-to-face teaching in September. We will be testing all students twice in the first week and then re-introducing the twice weekly home testing kits. Home testing will be expected to be completed until the end of September at least and will then be reviewed by the Government.

In order to test students and have an induction day for our new Year 7, all year groups will have a staggered start to the autumn term. Please refer to the table below to see when each year group will be tested and their first day in school. Appointment times within each time slot will be sent out by Friday 3 September.

Year Group	Date and approximate time of first test	First day in school
7	Monday 6 September 8.30-11.00	Tuesday 7 September
8	Tuesday 7 September 8.30-11.00	Wednesday 8 September
9	Tuesday 7 September 11.30-13.00	Wednesday 8 September
10	Tuesday 7 September 13.30-15.00	Wednesday 8 September
11	Monday 6 September 11.30-13.00	Wednesday 8 September
12 / 13	Monday 6 September 13.30-15.00	Tuesday 7 September - external Year 12 students only. Wednesday 8 September - all students

Head of School (Primary Phase): Paul Jones Head of School (Secondary Phase): John Gilligan

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A letter with a link to the testing consent form has been sent to all Year 6 parents and parents of students who have joined the school since March 2021. Please can you ensure that these are completed and returned as soon as possible so that we can finalise the times for testing.

Infections rates over the next six weeks may mean that government guidance changes. We will, of course, share any changes to our plans before we reopen in September.

After a very difficult year for parents/carers, students and staff, we hope you have the opportunity to enjoy some quality time with your families and recharge the batteries. We are optimistic that the next year will be positive and see the return to near normal operation.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Macfarlane".

Ms Alex Macfarlane
Deputy Head of School