

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware the government via the Department for Education has issued new Covid-19 guidance for schools. We wanted to provide you with an update with what this will mean for reopening in September and the start of the new academic year.

Contact tracing

As of Monday 19th July, NHS Test and Trace became responsible for identifying and contacting close contacts, from this point schools were no longer required to contact trace positive cases.

Self-isolation for children and young people

From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. They will only need to self-isolate if they have Covid-19 symptoms or have a positive Covid-19 test result. The normal procedures for communicating illness and absence will apply.

Return to school testing

The latest guidance has been released for the return to school, and states that students should be tested at school on two occasions on return from the summer holidays. We will only test students with consent, however we strongly encourage all students to participate in the testing program so that we can continue to keep each other safe. We have successfully completed mass testing already, so do not foresee any issues here.

If our records already indicate that you have provided consent for your child to be tested, we will automatically arrange for your child to be tested on return to school in September.

If you have not previously consented to testing for your child and wish to opt into the testing programme, or if your child is joining us in Year 7, please complete the consent for testing via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dBTLADSljUaCn2NuzjLCTKinnypsxypCo2wjdxFJVq5UQ0pOODJSMIFFMUtKUUK1U0ITTjRVM1NNUS4u>

Lateral Flow tests

Students are being asked to continue to test twice a week at home until the end of September. We will provide all students with lateral flow test kits on return to school and we will keep you informed of any updates as we receive them. Once again, these are arrangements students are familiar with. However, our new Year 7 students will not be familiar with completing lateral flow tests, so will be provided with guidance, as well as requiring support from their adult family members in the first instance.



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September testing arrangements

To facilitate on site testing, the return to school dates for each year group will be staggered, as follows:

Year Group	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
7	T1/NSD	NSD	HL	T2/NSD	NSD
8	HL	HL/T1	NSD	NSD	T2/NSD
9	HL	HL/T1	NSD	NSD	T2/NSD
10	HL/T1	NSD	HL	T2/NSD	NSD
11	HL/T1	NSD	HL	T2/NSD	NSD
12	HL	HL/T1	NSD	NSD	T2/NSD
13	T1/HL	NSD	NSD	T2/NSD	NSD

HL	Home learning set as per regular timetable
T1/T2	Test 1 and 2
NSD	Normal school day

Year 7

Return to school on Monday 6th September (Note: the home learning day is on Wednesday 8th September).

Year 8 and 9

Return to school on Wednesday 8th September

Year 10 and 11

Return to school on the 7th September (Note: the home learning day on Wednesday 8th September).

Year 12

Will attend school for Test 1 on Tuesday 7th September and return to school in person from Wednesday 8th (Note: the home learning days are on Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th).

Year 13

Will attend school for Test 1 on Monday 6th September (Note: the normal school day will start Tuesday 7th September).



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Academy start time

All students will now start and finish the school day at the same time, **all students must be at line-up for 8.25am** (the Southern access gate closes at **8.23am**). Both the Southern Access and playground gate will open from **8:10am**.

General COVID-19 Safety

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, staff and students' safety remains our top priority. We will be continuing to encourage good hand hygiene, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, and keeping occupied spaces well ventilated. As a school, we will continue to follow Public Health advice and have necessary contingency plans in place which include the use of MS Teams for home learning, should we need to temporarily reinstate these plans in the future.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that we have a safe and smooth return to the academic year. As always if you have any questions regarding the above information, please do make contact via info@isaacnewtonacademy.org.

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Abbott-Jones

Vice Principal