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Thursday 22 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well.

As you know the government has set out the guidance for how schools will operate in the autumn term. I am writing to give you a summary of key changes in school, along with some specific information about the start of term in September.

Mixing and Bubbles

The requirement to keep year groups separate will cease so this will allow us to return to a more normal way of delivering the curriculum in school. Year groups will no longer be in fixed rooms of the school which will allow for a return to full specialist facilities in Science, Music, Art and Technology. We will also be able to reopen our breakfast clubs (8.00-8.45am) and homework clubs (3.10-4.10pm).

Asymptomatic Testing

Over the summer students are not required to continue to test regularly unless they are attending a summer school. Schools have therefore not been issued with test kits to provide for all students during the summer. However, testing will still be widely available and kits can be collected from local pharmacies, so I would encourage students and families to continue to undertake regular testing.

When pupils return in September schools are required to offer two onsite Lateral Flow Tests 3 – 5 days apart. In order to accommodate this, schools are able to have a staggered return for students. At St Wilfrid's we have the testing capacity to do two main school year groups during the school day so the testing and return of pupils will be as follows:

New Year 7 Students:

A timetable has been shared with parents outlining the testing appointments on Monday 6 September. Term will begin for Y7 students at 8.45am on Tuesday 7 September. Their second LF test will take place during the school day on Thursday 9 September.

Year 8 and 9 Students:

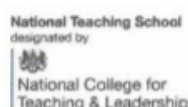
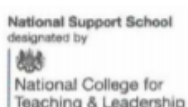
Testing will take place according to the timetable (overleaf) on Wednesday 8 September. Term will begin for Y8 and Y9 students at 8.45am on Thursday 9 September. Their second LF test will take place during the school day on Monday 12 September.

Year 10 and 11 Students:

Testing will take place according to the timetable (overleaf) on Tuesday 7 September. Term will begin for Y10 and Y11 students at 8.45am on Wednesday 8 September. Their second LF test will take place during the school day on Friday 10 September.

Year 12 and 13 Students:

Testing will take place according to the timetable (overleaf) on Monday 6 September. Term will begin for Y12 students at 8.45am on Tuesday 7 September. Term will begin for Y13 students at 8.45am on Wednesday 8 September. Their second LF test will take place during the school day on Thursday 9 September.



Excellentia per fidem, per scientiam, per adiuvatum

As in March, this testing is voluntary and no students will be prevented from returning to school if they do not take part in onsite testing. Parents who have previously consented have been given the option to withdraw consent. If you have not previously consented but are happy for your child to take part in testing, the consent form is here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScr9T3PkPZPxxo0ZpK566cOH_3rfQn9Net-buRHinOIGc2W-Q/viewform

Parents of new Year 7 students have been contacted separately and asked to complete a consent form.

Following these onsite tests students will be encouraged to continue twice weekly testing at home and the government will review this at the end of September.

Further information about Step 4 of the Roadmap and the implications for schools can be found here: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/06/parents-pupils-teachers-and-students-find-out-what-step-4-of-the-covid-roadmap-means-for-you/?fbclid=IwAR1pcxkMNjOIUkWO-ooDXQKZXTclpxW-JqGU9O2gZM68za7HIZG4eB4bvtE>

Our High Expectations

When we begin the new term we will ensure that, firstly, students feel comfortable adapting to the systems and processes of traditional secondary education - namely, moving around the building from class to class, interacting on occasion with children in other year groups and benefiting from the many advantages and experiences of our wonderful House system. We will of course also be outlining to new students - and reiterating to our current students - our high expectations of behaviour, character and effort. We deeply wish for 2021-2022 to be a year in which our staff are able to spend their time supporting and challenging students to excel and progress academically as well as flourishing with their many extra-curricular gifts and talents. We appreciate the support of all parents and carers in helping their children recognise and understand our expectations and the sanctions that occur when they are not met.

Uniform

We have high standards of uniform. It is important that St Wilfrid's students take pride in themselves and in our school. All students are treated equally and fairly; if any students breach any part of our uniform policy, then they will either be given some temporary uniform to wear, sent home to change, or work in our Unit until their uniform is correct. We will do this to ensure that all our pupils take pride in their appearance. We wish our students to demonstrate their commitment to their education at St Wilfrid's by conforming and wearing the uniform as prescribed in the policy. Further details are available in the uniform policy on the school website. Please note that students are expected to arrive in full school uniform each day, including on PE days, as our changing facilities will be reopened in September.

ParentPay

In September we will reintroduce the use of fingerprint recognition for payment in our café. However, we ask that you keep your child's payment card safe just in case we are required to reintroduce the use of cards in response to changes in Covid protocols.

As we come to the end of this school year, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. As a parent I understand how challenging this year has been for you all. I also want to thank and pay tribute to the tremendous staff at St Wilfrid's for their adaptability and determination to provide the best education and support for your children as they could. Finally, I want to thank our wonderful students, your children, who have faced many obstacles this year and have responded with great fortitude, resilience and positivity.

I hope that the new school year brings a return to a much more normal experience for all in our school community and, before then, I hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Ritchie
Acting Head of School

Here are the timings for the first onsite LF tests for each year group.

Your child should come along to the Sports Hall at the designated time for their form class. They will be in school for a short time to conduct their test and will then be free to go home. Unfortunately, parents are not able to accompany their child.

We ask that all Y8-11 students wear their full school uniform when attending the testing centre, so that we can conduct uniform checks in preparation for their return to school the following day.

Monday 6 September	
<i>Form group</i>	<i>Time</i>
12 (surnames beginning A-M)	12:45
12 (surnames beginning N-Z)	13:30
13 Col 1 & 2	14:00
13 Col 3 & 4	14:30
Tuesday 7 September	
<i>Form group</i>	<i>Time</i>
10 Aidan 1 & 2	08:45
10 Bede 1 & 2	09:15
10 Cuthbert 1 & 2	09:45
10 Hilda 1 & 2	10:15
10 Margaret Clitherow 1 & 2	10:45
11 Cuthbert 1 & 2	11:30
11 Bede 1 & 2	13:00
11 Hilda 1 & 2	13:45
11 Aidan 1 & 2 & 11CC	14:30
Wednesday 8 September	
<i>Form group</i>	<i>Time</i>
9 Margaret Clitherow 1 & 2	08:45
9 Hilda 1 & 2	09:15
9 Cuthbert 1 & 2	09:45
9 Aidan 1 & 2	10:15
9 Bede 1 & 2	10:45
8 Aidan 1 & 2	11:30
8 Bede 1 & 2	13:00
8 Hilda 1 & 2	13:30
8 Margaret Clitherow 1 & 2	14:00
8 Cuthbert 1	14:30