



August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Re: Start of autumn term 2021-22 – arrangements and expectations

I hope that everyone has managed to have a restful period at some point over the summer holidays and an enjoyable time together as a family. As no doubt your thoughts are starting to turn towards returning to school, I wanted to write to you all to provide some further detail regarding the start of term arrangements and expectations. The information below has been put together based on current guidelines; should changes occur, we will of course communicate these with you.

We are now planning 'as normal' a return to the academic year as possible. We will of course continue to follow all Department for Education and Public Health England guidance and our risk mitigation plan remains in place; the safety of all staff and students is, as always, our main priority. Control measures such as ensuring good hygiene for everyone, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes and keeping occupied spaces well ventilated will continue to be implemented.

Bubbles

It will no longer be necessary to keep students in consistent groups or 'bubbles'. Therefore, all students will utilise and move around the whole school meaning that they have access to all practical subjects including PE, science, art, D&T and music. The full curriculum in these subjects will be reintroduced from the start of term.

Contact tracing and self-isolation

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Students are welcome to wear a face covering if they wish to do so. However, face coverings will still be required on school transport.

Testing at the start of term

All secondary schools have been asked to set up our test centres once more so that students should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests before they return in the autumn term. Students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September when this will be reviewed. Please see the plan below for details of when your child should attend for their first test before the start of term, if you have provided consent for them to take part in testing. Students will then have their second test, in school, on Friday 27 August or Tuesday 31 August.

	MONDAY	Surname		TUESDAY	Surname		WEDNESDAY	Surname
	23/08/2021	beginning:		24/08/2021	beginning:		25/08/2021	beginning:
09:00	Y7	A-B	08:30	Y10	A-H	09:30	Y8	A-F
09:30	Y7	C-D	09:00	Y10	I-R	10:00	Y8	G-P
10:00	Y7	E-G	09:30	Y10	S-Z	11:00	Y8	Q-Z
12:30	Y7	H-J						
13:00	Y7	K-L	10:00	Y11	A-F	11:30	Y9	A-G
13:30	Y7	M-P	11:00	Y11	G-O	12:00	Y9	H-M
14:00	Y7	R-S	11:30	Y11	P-Z	12:30	Y9	N-Z
14:30	Y7	T-W						



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SIAMS outstanding



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Diocese of Leicester

Start of term

As previously communicated, we are planning to stagger the return of all students, during the week commencing 23 August 2021, which will enable us to support all students as we re-establish routines and processes, as well as to allow students to familiarise themselves with the entire school building. Please see the return dates for each year group below; students will be required to return to school at the normal time of 8.30am on the given dates.

Date	Return
Monday 23 August and Tuesday 24 August	Staff training
Wednesday 25 August and Thursday 26 August	New year 7 transition days Over the two days, new year 7 students will meet their form tutor and others in their form group, and take part in team building activities to familiarise themselves with the school building and routines.
Thursday 26 August	Year 10 and 11 students to return to school A focus on routines and expectations for Key Stage 4 students.
Friday 27 August	Year 8 and 9 students to return to school A focus on routines and expectations for Key Stage 3 students, including re-familiarisation of the main school buildings
Monday 30 August	Bank holiday (school closed)

Start of the day

Routines which were established at the start of the school day last year will remain the same. Therefore, students need to assemble for 8.30am in designated areas, as detailed below.

Year	Assembly point
7	Assemble on the Astro turf (enter via the Astro turf emergency gates)
8	Assemble on the Astro turf (enter via the Astro turf emergency gates)
9	Assemble on the netball court (MUGA)
10	Assemble on the netball court (MUGA)
11	Assemble in the square (enter via the PE gate)

Break and lunch

The canteen and baguette bar will be fully operational from the start of term. As previously detailed, we will no longer be utilising biometrics in school. Existing students were issued with an ID card and lanyard to pay for items in school at the end of last term. Year 7 students will be given their cards during their first two days in school. Please ensure that your child's catering account is topped up, from home via ParentPay, in advance of them buying food. We are currently having a new exterior canopy being built at the side of the main hall to provide a designated outdoor eating area for students.

Lunchtime football

The Astro turf will be available during some lunchtimes for access to play football only. In order to access and take part in a game, students will require shin pads and suitable footwear.

End of the day and extra-curricular activities

All students will now be dismissed from site at 3pm. We are planning to reintroduce a full programme of extra-curricular activities and will promote these to students and parents/carers at the start of term.

Behaviour and pastoral support

We will be spending time at the start of the new year ensuring that all students are aware of all routines and procedures. We are in the process of updating our Behaviour Policy with the changes we have needed to make and this will be on our website before the start of the academic year. We would encourage parents/carers and students to read this in advance of the start of the new term. At the start of term, we will be spending time in form groups re-familiarising students with expectations and routines. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's form tutor or relevant pastoral manager or head of year. Details of the pastoral staff members associated with each year group are below.

Year	Head of year	Pastoral manager
7	Mr J Stewardson	Mr T Smith
8	Miss A Gaskell	Mr S Coombs
9	Mr T Clarke	Mrs H Underwood
10	Mr M Higham	Mr L Mayes
11	Mr J Marsden	Mrs G Heath



College uniform

As members of staff at the college, we do not wish to waste any learning time through discussions with students about non-school uniform items. As previously communicated, there was an element of leniency applied during last academic year due to the various lockdowns the country faced, school closures, and issues with acquiring uniform etc. However, as we start a new academic year and a return to our new normality, we will insist that uniform standards are high and will require all students to adhere to the school uniform policy, as highlighted on the college website. Please note that leggings are not part of the school uniform and, therefore, should not be worn.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are allowed to be brought to school, unless permission is withdrawn by the principal. We appreciate that they are an important safety link with parents/carers when the student is travelling to and from school. In allowing students to bring mobile phones to school, students and parents/carers must accept the following basic principles.

- Mobile phones and any headphones must be kept in lockers at all times unless specifically required within a lesson for educational reasons.
- Mobile phones and/or headphones will be confiscated if seen by members of staff. Parents/carers are then required to collect confiscated items after school or on the next school day.
- Mobile phones must never be used in the school building or grounds for any purpose (other than at the specific direction of a member of staff).
- If it is necessary for a student to contact home for an essential reason, the telephone at reception should be used.
- Equally, should parents/carers need to get in touch with their son or daughter during the school day, then please contact the school reception where a message can be taken to your child.

Equipment

The following items are the minimum required for daily use. Indeed, students will be required to have specialist equipment for certain subjects, particularly in years 9, 10 and 11.

- pencil case
- pens
- pencils
- ruler
- rubber
- coloured pencils
- scientific calculator (model sold in school – CASIO fx-85GTX)
- glue stick
- maths set (protractor, compasses)
- set of unbranded ear buds for use with computers/keyboards
- an individual packet of personal tissues
- individual hand sanitizer.

Lockers

From the start of term, locker usage will be permitted. Locker payments will be added to year 7 ParentPay accounts on Friday 20 August. Please can parents and carers of year 7 students make payment via ParentPay before Friday 27 August. Lockers will be allocated during the first week of term.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the college. I hope that you are able to enjoy the rest of the summer break and very much look forward to working with you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Sadie Batstone
Principal

