

7th July 2021

END-OF-TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term, I can only reflect on what an extraordinary year that has been. The temporary arrangements that we put in place at the beginning of the Autumn term – bubbles, staggered start/end times, different entrances/exits, staggered break/lunch arrangements, students largely remaining in one classroom, windows and doors open (even in winter!), hand sanitiser in every room, etc. – are all still in place!

Indeed, the Autumn term was relatively normal compared to the rest of the year, although we were hit hard by staff and student absence in November. It was also in November when face masks were first introduced in corridors, as Loughborough was placed in Tier 2 (remember that?!). It is easy to forget how quickly things were changing and developing. For example, at that time, we had never even heard of a lateral flow test! They were meant to be introduced at the beginning of the Spring term but, of course, the Spring term didn't start until 15th March because of the national lockdown. Instead in that time, we implemented a full remote learning programme, supplying devices to students who needed them, and conducting welfare calls to check that everybody was OK. We then did nearly 2,000 on-site tests in less than two weeks as students returned to school, wearing face masks in classrooms for the first time.

This term has been dominated by Teacher Assessed Grades for GCSEs and other qualification, on which staff and students worked extraordinarily hard. No end-of-year trips, of course, but we have tried to get some nice events in for students, within the restrictions!

I am immensely proud of what staff and students have achieved this year, amidst the turmoil. I think we have managed to maintain our ethos of *Achievement in a Caring Environment*. I am also so grateful to you, the parents, for your support. We had some wonderfully positive feedback from the survey that Mr Smith coordinated last month, which was truly heart-warming, so thank you.

And now we have some hope, as we learn that most restrictions are to be lifted for the start of the new academic year. Read on for important information about the return to school.

We finish at 12.15pm on Friday 9th July. I wish you a happy, healthy, and richly well-deserved break.

Yours sincerely

J Mellor
Headteacher

BEGINNING OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

The DfE published its guidance for schools yesterday afternoon. The headlines are:

- After the end of the summer term, it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means bubbles will not need to be used in schools from the autumn term.
- 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.
- At the start of the new academic year, face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.
- All students are to have two **on-site** LFD tests at the beginning of next year, and will then test at home (twice a week) throughout September. Schools may have a staggered start to term to achieve this.

What does this mean for us?

It means the majority of school life returns to where it was prior to this academic year, most notably using specialist areas for teaching, with students moving around the school between lessons.

In school, we will continue to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone, by continuing to encourage regular hand washing and use of hand sanitiser.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, particularly on frequent touch points.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

It also means a staggered start to the term as we commence on-site testing, and establish our expectations with students. A staggered start also gives the opportunity to meet our new Year 7 for the first time (given that we have not been allowed to have transition days), and also show/remind our younger year groups about the layout of the school. The table on the next page shows the intended start to term.

Before having any lessons, all year groups will come into school for a lateral flow device test. They will then leave again, and you will be informed by email/text of their results (as happened earlier in the year). We will confirm the times of these with you nearer the time, so please keep an eye on your emails.

IMPORTANT: We will assume that your consent level for testing hasn't changed from March unless you notify us otherwise. Likewise, we will use the same email addresses and mobile numbers as before unless you tell us.

We will write to parents of the new Year 7 students separately.

- Years 10 & 11 will have introductory sessions on Wednesday 25th August, and then work to do at home before their return on Tuesday 31st August.
- Years 8 & 9 will have introductory sessions on Thursday 26th August, and then work to do at home before their return on Tuesday 31st August.
- Year 7 will begin on Friday 27th August.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Mon 23rd	Staff Training Day				
Tue 24th				On-site testing 1 times tbc	On-site testing 1 times tbc
Wed 25th		On-site testing 1 times tbc	On-site testing 1 times tbc	Introduction session 9.30-11.00	Introduction session 12.30-2.00
Thu 26th	On-site testing 1 times tbc	Introduction session, inc. tour 9.30-11.30	Introduction session, inc. tour 12.30-2.30	Remote learning	Remote learning
Fri 27th	Introduction session, inc. tour P4, Lunch, P5 as normal 8.50-2.45	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning	Remote learning
				On-site testing 2 times tbc	On-site testing 2 times tbc
Mon 30th	Bank Holiday				
Tue 31st	Normal timetable begins for all year groups 8.50-2.45				
		On-site testing 2 times tbc	On-site testing 2 times tbc		
Wed 1st	On-site testing 2 times tbc				
Thu 2nd					
Fri 3rd					

The times of the regular school day will be 8.50am – 2.45pm for all students.

Years 7, 8 and 9 students will use the Tatmarsh entrance to school.

Years 10 & 11 will use the Car Park entrance.

As previously stated, we will write to you again before your child's return with further details.

STAFFING NEWS

We are sad to say goodbye to a number of staff this week. Noorjahan Chowdhury, Amy Cook, Rakhi Patel, Hannah Coulson, Hannah Allen, and Junior Campbell all leave with our very best wishes – thank you all for your contributions to Limehurst, and good luck!

Joining us after the summer are: Zyanne Hook (Science), William Dickinson (Citizenship) and Oliver Henn (Maths), Audrey Fritschy-Haramburu (MFL), Alex Howlett (Science) and Yasmin Mallick (Science). Welcome to them all!

GCSE RESULTS

Results Day is Thursday 12th August. Everyone will have a timed appointment. There is a letter with more details available to view on our [website](#).