

7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Brighter skies ahead



We are delighted to share with you the headlines of the updated COVID 19 guidance that has been published for schools by the government yesterday.

The government have now confirmed that bubbles will be removed for all school children from Stage 4 of the Roadmap.

**This will take effect for our Pathfinder pupils when we return to school in September. For the remainder of this term our schools will continue with all COVID measures currently in place in order to minimise the risk of outbreaks affecting your activities during the summer break.**

The following link provides a useful summary of the changes:

[Parents, pupils, teachers and students. Find out what step 4 of the Covid roadmap means for you. - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Details in brief include;

- When we return to school after the summer break it will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles - mixing in school will be as it was before the pandemic
- Staggered starts will no longer be necessary – all children can arrive at school at the normal school starting time
- Schools and settings will only need to do contact tracing for those who have been in close contact of a confirmed case up to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021; from 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- From 16<sup>th</sup> 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, however will be advised to take a PCR test.
- Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.
- In addition, face coverings will no longer be recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school after the summer break.

Our Pathfinder schools will continue to make sure that they:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

- Have an outbreak management plan, as detailed in the guidance, in case there is an outbreak in school causing pupils and staff to be sent home

In line with the guidance all secondary school pupils and students will receive two on-site lateral flow device tests on their return in September and then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. The Principal, Mrs Gabbi, will write to all secondary parents with further details of testing for secondary age pupils as soon as possible following receipt of more detailed information from the DfE.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding during the most challenging of times. We sincerely hope that this will be the start of a much more 'normal' year but will of course keep you updated should this change in any way.

Your child's school will send more detailed information to support you to plan for September ahead of the start of term.



Ann Davey  
Chief Executive Officer