

Friday 9th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Just a quick update today – we will be sending a longer letter next week with lots of information prior to the start of a new school year in September.

I'm sure that you are aware of the national news about the high numbers of pupils across the country who have had to self-isolate recently after being identified as close contacts of positive Covid cases. Clearly we have felt the impact of this here at Hyde but, just to offer some reassurance, the number of pupils actually testing positive remains relatively low and we currently have just 12 live cases out of 906 pupils. Unfortunately, each positive case can affect up to 40 to 50 other pupils and we have no alternative but to send pupils home in this situation.

After so much time out of school this year, it is hugely frustrating that so many healthy pupils have had to learn remotely at times and I can only imagine the difficulties that this has caused for many families over the last few weeks. Fortunately, 'Step 4' of the government's roadmap will see an end to this practice and so learning should be much less disrupted from September.

Lateral flow testing remains a powerful tool in identifying positive cases amongst asymptomatic pupils. I would urge all families to ensure that children take a test this weekend to avoid us having to ask other pupils to self-isolate for the end of term and into the summer holidays.

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during this period of interrupted face-to-face schooling.

Mass testing when school reopens in September

The government's new guidance has also directed secondary schools to test all pupils for Covid-19 as the new term starts in September with two lateral flow tests 3 – 5 days apart.

This means that we will need to slightly stagger pupils' return, as we did in March, and next week I will send out details of what this means for each year group. We will obviously be aiming to get all pupils back into school as soon as we possibly can.

We will send further information with details of this next testing programme in due course.

Structure of the school day in September

We will retain a similar structure for the school day for a further 12 months to ensure that we have the flexibility to revert to 'bubbles' if the need arose at short notice. We will, however, be reintroducing Form Time at the start of each day so that we can refresh the pastoral structures that have always been so strong at Hyde.

We will also retain a slightly staggered start and end to the day with times as follows:

Year	Entry to the building	Start time	End time
7	8:35am	8:40am	2:35pm
8 and 9	8:40am	8:45am	2:40pm
10 and 11	8:45am	8:50am	2:45pm

This will enable us to maintain the very calm starts and ends to the day that we have had this year and will mean less crowding for pupils on their way into and out of school.

Breaks and lunches will remain separate at the start of the new school year, this may be changed later to Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 breaks and lunches if this would be beneficial to learning.

Free School Meals during the summer break

We have arranged for vouchers to be provided to the value of £90 per eligible child to all families in receipt of Free School Meals to cover the six week summer break. These vouchers will be issued towards the end of next week; please forward any queries to admin@hydehighschool.uk.

We also offer a support package for any families in receipt of the universal credit allowance and/or Free School Meals who may need some help with the cost of uniform. Please get in touch with Mrs Randall at school for more information (w.randall@hydehighschool.uk).

Fund Raising Fun Run

Next Thursday, 15th July, pupils will have the opportunity to take part in our Fun Run to raise money for Willow Wood Hospice. This will take place at the end of the school day and for a donation of £1, pupils are invited to complete 2 laps of our fun run course (they may get a little wet! 😊). Full details will be issued next week.

Library Books

Please have a look for any school library books that might be lying forgotten in a corner – we really need your help as approximately £4000 worth of books are currently unreturned. There are no fines or penalties for overdue books – just our gratitude!

School ties

Each year we issue a new school tie to all incoming Year 7 pupils and to those moving up into Year 10. This will take place as pupils return in September.

End of Term

Just to confirm that term ends next Friday at 12pm. There will be no lunch service but sandwiches etc. will be available at break time. This will be a non-uniform day for all pupils (no charge) but clothing must be appropriate for the school environment.

Apparently there's a football game on Sunday and Mr White in the maths department keeps talking about something coming home. Whatever you're doing this weekend, enjoy and keep safe.

Best wishes,



Andrea Radcliffe

Headteacher