



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Friday 3 September 2021

Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have had a relaxing break and had the opportunity for some much-needed family time. At the start of the new term in which we are returning to something much closer to our normal school experience with the chance once again for the full range of experiences in and outside the classroom I am writing to update you on our plans to continue to operate safely on our return to school.

As you know, the Department for Education issued updated coronavirus guidance to schools in July. Over the summer there was no requirement for students to test using lateral flow devices. Beginning on July 19 schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing and so this term the role will be carried out directly by NHS Test and Trace. From 16 August the requirement for close contacts to self-isolate was also removed. Instead, only those with a confirmed positive PCR test are required to isolate.

As was the case when school re-opened in March, when students return to school next week, we will be delivering a testing programme for students without coronavirus symptoms using COVID-19 lateral flow tests. In line with national guidance, we will test students twice as they return to school. After this, students will once again be issued with home testing kits so that they can complete lateral flow tests twice weekly at home. The first on-site test will take place on the first day students return to school. On their first day in school students will remain with their year group and will be supervised to complete work set by their teachers before returning to normal lessons in the afternoon. **It is important that students in Years 11 to 13 bring their school laptops, fully charged as they will need them for the morning activities. Year 10 students will be issued with their new laptops on their return to school.** The second LFD test will take place during lesson time over the following week.

Students will return to school from the date set out below.

Monday 6 September Year 11 and Year 13

Tuesday 7 September Year 10 and Year 12

Wednesday 8 September Year 9 and Year 8

Thursday 9 September Year 7

If you have already provided permission for the school to administer these tests during this academic year, there is no need for you to do so again. If you have not provided permission and wish to do so please log on to ParentPay and access the Covid consent item on Parentpay.

During the first two weeks of term while the testing centre, based in our Refectory, is in operation students will continue to eat a packed lunch in their form bases or the pre-order system can be used to order hot and cold lunches. A link to the system can be found below: <https://bit.ly/3eyLZX3> If you would like to use the pre-order lunch system and have not already activated your account, please e-mail info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

From Monday 6 September, students will no longer have to remain in year group 'bubbles' and will move around the school to lessons in specialist faculty teaching areas. They will be able to take part in extra-curricular activities such as drama and music and we will do all we can to provide a full and rich experience inside and beyond the classroom. We will continue to take a range of precautions to ensure the safety of students and staff as part of our coronavirus risk assessment. We will continue to operate our existing systems to manage movement around the school site. Signage and staff guidance will continue to emphasise the importance of hand sanitising regularly throughout the day. Teachers and the site team will ensure that there is good ventilation with windows and doors left open for inside spaces. Enhanced cleaning provision will continue. Please provide your child with a face mask for travelling on school buses and to be used on busy corridors.

From September we will continue to operate a staggered start and end of day. Form tutors will be available in form rooms from 8.40 each day. Students arriving by school bus will be supervised by senior and pastoral staff on arrival. For students who do not use the school buses the staggered start times are as follows: VI Form should arrive at school for 8.40, Year 10 and 11 for 8.50 and Years 7-9 for 9.00. At the end of the day, VI Form will leave at 3.30, Year 10 and 11 at 3.35 and Years 7, 8 and 9 at 3.40.

Uniform and equipment

We expect students to be in full school uniform. Information about our uniform and equipment list, including the VI Form has been issued and is available on the school website. If you have any specific enquiries regarding uniform, please contact Mrs Owen-Moore (Head of Lower School) or Mr Carnwell (Head of Sixth Form). At the start of the autumn term, as was the case last year, students should wear their PE kit to school on days when they have PE. Sharing of equipment requires careful management by subject staff and so, to keep this to a minimum, it is important that students come to school fully equipped. Students should stock their pencil case with pens, pencils, eraser, ruler, protractor, compass, glue stick, scientific calculator, pocket dictionary and highlighters.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Ecclesbourne community a warm welcome back. An exciting term lies ahead.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us as usual.

Yours sincerely,



James McNamara

Head Teacher