



26th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Reminder of arrangements for September 2021

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well and that you have had a lovely summer. As we approach the end of the summer break, I just wanted to write to you with a reminder of some of the key information for our safe and effective return.

Coronavirus testing and the return of students to school

We will be asking some students to come in for testing before the normal start of term, and slightly delaying the start for one year group. Students will be asked to take 2 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process.

Year Group in September 2021	Arrangements for start of term
7	<p>Y7 students will attend for a Covid test at their allocated appointment time (which will be between 3:30pm and 7pm) on Thursday 2nd September. School uniform will not be required. We anticipate that tests will take about 15 minutes. Students will be able to return home straight after taking their tests. They do not need to wait for their test results, as we will contact anyone who has a positive result.</p> <p>School will start at 8:45am on Friday 3rd September (Induction day). Full school uniform is required.</p>
8	<p>Y8 students won't attend school on the morning of Monday 6th September.</p> <p>Y8 students will attend for a Covid test at their allocated appointment time (which will be between 12:30pm and 3:00 pm) on Monday 6th September. School uniform won't be required. We anticipate that tests will take about 10-15 minutes and students will return home straight after taking their tests. They do not need to wait for their test results, as we will contact anyone who has a positive result.</p> <p>Normal school will start at 8:45am on Tuesday 7th September. Full school uniform will be required.</p>
9	<p>Y9 students will attend for a Covid test at their allocated appointment time (which will be between 3:00pm and 6:00pm) on Friday 3rd September. School uniform won't be required. We anticipate that tests will take about 10-15 minutes and students will return home straight after taking their tests. They do not need to wait for their test results, as we will contact anyone who has a positive result.</p> <p>Normal school starts at 8:45am on Monday 6th September. Full school uniform will be required.</p>

Year Group in September 2021	Arrangements for start of term
10	<p>Y10 students will attend for a Covid test at their allocated appointment time (which will be between 11:00am and 3:00pm) on Friday 3rd September. School uniform won't be required. We anticipate that tests will take about 10-15 minutes and students will return home straight after taking their tests. They do not need to wait for their test results, as we will contact anyone who has a positive result.</p> <p>Normal school starts at 8:45am on Monday 6th September. Full school uniform will be required.</p>
11	<p>Y9 students will attend for a Covid test at their allocated appointment time (which will be between 8:00am and 11:00am) on Friday 3rd September. School uniform won't be required. We anticipate that tests will take about 10-15 minutes and students will return home straight after taking their tests. They do not need to wait for their test results, as we will contact anyone who has a positive result.</p> <p>Normal school starts at 8:45am on Monday 6th September. Full school uniform will be required.</p>

Individual appointment times for students have been issued or will be arriving shortly.

Testing is voluntary, so you and/or your child will need to give consent for it to be carried out. Many of you have already done this, and we do not need to ask for consent again. If you didn't previously give consent, we would encourage you to do so. The electronic consent form for parents and carers is available here: <http://summerhill.info>

If at any point students test positive, they will, of course, need to self-isolate, along with the rest of their household, in line with government guidance.

After the initial tests at school, students will be given further coronavirus test packs that they should take twice a week at home. These will need to take place on Sundays and Wednesdays, in the same way as students have been doing previously.

Students should arrive at school for their test no more than 5 minutes before their individual appointment time. They will enter via the bike gate (near the swimming pool). Parents and carers who are bringing their child to school and then transporting them home straight afterwards are asked to stay in their vehicle to minimise contact with others.

The arrangements set out later in this letter are based on the latest [government guidance](#). As we have seen over previous months, this guidance can change quite quickly and so our plans may need to change, too – but this letter explains what we expect to happen if the guidance stays unchanged.

Contact-tracing

If a student is identified as having been in contact with another student who has tested positive for Covid-19, they will not normally be asked to self-isolate. Instead, they will have a Covid test on each school day for a period of 10 days. As long as their daily tests are negative, these students will be able to continue attending school as normal. We will liaise with NHS Track and Trace and Public Health England to confirm which students this should apply to.

Our safety measures

We will do everything we can to make sure our staff and students can attend school safely. We'll continue to take the following protective measures:

- Students will be required to sanitise their hands on arrival to school at the House door where they enter.
- Students should wash their hands and sanitise them throughout the day. They will be expected to sanitise their hands as they arrive for each lesson, and to wipe down their desk.

- We will update our health and safety risk assessment for COVID based on the latest guidance.
- We are maintaining our enhanced cleaning including deep cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- A quarantine area will be provided for those displaying symptoms of COVID
- We will continue to limit non-essential visits to school and will use video links for meetings where possible

We don't currently expect that wearing of face masks will be compulsory, though this might change at short notice depending on the local / national situation. We will support staff or students who wish to continue to wear a face mask.

Students will no longer be in fixed bubbles, meaning that they will have greater freedom to interact with a range of students at break and lunchtime. Again, it is possible that this could change before September.

Arrival to school

The normal school day starts at 8.45am. There should be no students on the school site before 8.00am, when the café will start serving breakfast items and Y11 may start to use the Learning Centre for quiet study. Students who don't wish to use the café / Learning Centre should line up outside their House door, which will open at 8:35am

School Day (from September 2021)

8:00am	Café open for all students. Learning centre open for Y11
8:35am	House Doors open
8:45am	Tutor Time
9:05am	Period 1
9:55am	Period 2
10:45am	Break
11:00am	Period 3
11:50am	Period 4
12:40pm	Lunch
1:10pm	Period 5
2:00pm	Period 6
2:50pm	Student Departure

Uniform and Equipment

Full school uniform must be worn at all times with no exceptions. Please check well in advance that your child's uniform still fits them and is in good condition. Additional uniform can be ordered online in the usual way.

Students will be able to use changing rooms again. This means that they should wear normal school uniform every day and bring their PE kit with them.

Plain black polishable shoes must be worn – strictly no logos and no canvas/fabric shoes are allowed. Skirts must be of a suitable length on or just above the knee. Jewellery is restricted to a watch and one small stud earring in each ear. Facial piercings or extreme hairstyles (tramlines etc.), extreme hair dyes or extreme or excessive makeup are not permitted.

Once students are in the building mobile phones must be NOT SEEN and NOT HEARD, unless students are registering themselves for the lateral flow tests which is part of the government track and trace process. Students are permitted to check their phones OUTSIDE at breaks and lunchtimes. We encourage students to leave all expensive personal items at home. We cannot take responsibility for everyone's electronic devices, jewellery etc. All losses are at the owner's risk.

If you have any queries regarding any of the information, please contact your House Teams:

Ursa – jwollerton@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

rdavies@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Draco – mglattback@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

lreeves@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

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It has been a very challenging two years for all students, families and staff and we look forward to welcoming our students back in September for the next chapter in their education. I would also like to take this opportunity to say well done and best wishes to the Year 11 students who graduated from Summerhill this year. In unprecedented times the students achieved exceptionally well. I am sure you will join us as part of the Summerhill community in congratulating them on their achievements and we look forward to hearing of and sharing their successes in the future.

Yours sincerely

Tim Harris
Headteacher