

16th July 2021

JULY UPDATE LETTER 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This update letter marks the conclusion of another year at Corby Technical School. Throughout the course of this year, all of us have had to respond quickly to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are very proud of the way in which the students have adapted to the year group bubbles and other arrangements that we have had to put in place in response to the ever-changing government guidance. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for your unwavering support over the course of this academic year, your patience and understanding throughout, has been greatly valued by our staff team.

Whilst we are all looking forward to some rest over the summer break, there is still much to do to ensure that we are prepared for the next academic year. The latest government guidance issued to secondary schools is being reviewed and we will publish full information about our plans during the **week beginning Monday 9th August**. We have chosen this date to give us sufficient time to respond to the guidance and make sure our staff can plan thoroughly for the best possible start to the new school year for every child.

A brief overview of some of the changes to guidance is given below, please note that government guidance may still change.

Rapid testing for COVID-19

- On return to school, the DfE has asked that all students are offered two onsite lateral flow tests. Plans for this will be put in place for August and we will update you with further detail in our next letter.

Close contact tracing

- From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old and 4 months 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. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.
- Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

Face coverings

- Face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, all students, staff and visitors can wear one if they wish.

Bubbles

- Students will no longer be required to be in consistent group or 'bubbles' and mixing will be permitted.

The school will continue to follow a system of control measures to keep students safe. We will also have an outbreak management plan in place, as detailed in the guidance, in case there is an outbreak in school.

In light of the new government guidance, here is a list of some key operational changes that we will be making from the start of next term:

- All students will arrive via our main gates and will enter school via reception.
- Students will no longer be in year group bubbles as social distancing restrictions have been lifted.
- Students will each have a locker allocated to them and all personal belongings will need to be kept in their locker throughout the school day.
- Our school restaurant will be back in use and all eating and drinking will take place in the restaurant or the adjoining outdoor 'canopy' area.
- Whole school assemblies will resume.

Included on the next two pages of this letter are some helpful reminders in order for students to be prepared for their return to school in August. There is also some further detail for parents/carers regarding communication over the summer period and school day timings.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well for the summer break and we look forward to welcoming students back next term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Reynolds', written in a cursive style.

Mrs A Reynolds
Principal

READINESS FOR NEXT TERM

Lockers

It is important that students provide a lock for their locker and these will be back in use from term 1.

School Uniform

Details regarding [school uniform](#) are available on our school website. Please ensure your child has the correct uniform for school, including PE kit.

Swipe Cards – If your child has lost their swipe card we will replace it during week 1. Students are expected to look after their swipe card and it will be used to record attendance from next term. If a student loses or damages their card they will be expected to pay for a replacement.

Equipment - Students will need to ensure that they start the new term with their own personal stationery:

- scientific calculator (we recommend the **Casio fx-83GT**). This should be named.
- 2 black pens
- pencil
- rubber
- green pen (biro)
- glue stick

The school will provide any other stationery, but it remains the responsibility of each student to be fully prepared for lessons with this basic set of equipment.

Access to water

Students will be able to access their lockers at break and lunch. They should bring adequate drinks to consume at these times. Drinks bottles are not permitted during lesson time but there are water fountains available around the school. We do not allow energy drinks to be consumed on the school site.

School breakfast and lunch

Please can you ensure that your child has sufficient funds on their card to pay for school meals for the beginning of the new school year. This is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that regular payments are made through Wisepay. We regret that we cannot authorise any form of overdraft on a students account. We have a cash payment machine in school that students can deposit funds in to as well as a balance checker that students can use to check their own accounts.

Student arrival

Students must arrive in school by 8:40am to ensure ample time for them to organise their items for the day, store their personal belongings in their locker and arrive at tutor time for 8:45am.

Students can not arrive at school any earlier than 8:00am as we need to ensure that sufficient staff are in place to supervise. Our preference is for students to arrive between 8:15am and 8:40am. Students arriving earlier may be asked to wait in a specific area of the school, i.e. the library, until 8:15am.

We encourage parents to support their children arriving to school on time as being punctual shows good organisational skills and respect for our school values.

KEY INFORMATION

Communication

Please note the school is closed between 17th July 2021 - 16th August 2021 and staff e-mails will not be monitored during this period. Please contact the school on enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org if there is anything that cannot wait until the new term begins.

School Day timings – Monday 16th August to Friday 27th August

The current timings of the school day will remain the same for the dates above. From week 3 next term the timings will shift to our new school day timings.

School Day timings – Tuesday 31st August onwards

These timings will be in effect from Tuesday 31st August 2021.

For students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 13:

The school day will begin at 8:45 and finish at 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

For students in Year 11 only:

The school day will begin at 8:45 and finish at 4:00pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The school day will begin at 8:45 and finish at 3:00pm, Monday and Friday.

This additional 3 hours a week are compulsory for all year 11 students and will be used to focus on Maths, English and Science.

Extended co-curricular provision

We have been busy planning our after-school co-curricular provision. This will be launched to students early next term and they will be responsible for booking onto these clubs. We will also send out further details to parents/carers early next term. The clubs will begin on Tuesday 7th September. The clubs will run from 3:00pm until 4:00pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Term dates

For information regarding term dates, bank holidays and staff training days please visit our [website](#).