

11th August 2021

NEW TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope students and their families have had a restful and enjoyable break. We are very much looking forward to students returning to us on **Monday 16th August**. This date signifies a return to more 'normal' operating procedures in school and considering that, please find detailed below some key information regarding our arrangements.

Lateral flow testing for COVID-19

On return to school, the DfE has asked that all students are offered two onsite lateral flow tests. All students will be expected to attend school at the **normal time** on **Monday 16th August**. During Monday 16th August all students with consent will take part in the lateral flow test programme. We will offer those same students a second test on Thursday 19th August.

We will be using the previous consent given for testing, therefore if you have already consented, we will allow the student to take the test. If you previously gave consent and would like to withdraw it, or if you would now like to give consent and you didn't before, please e-mail enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org by 3:00pm on Friday 13th August.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately, and we will arrange for them to go home. They will need to take a confirmatory PCR test to confirm the result. During the time waiting for a confirmatory PCR the student will need to self-isolate. If the PCR is positive, they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If the PCR test is negative, students can return to school and resume other 'normal' activities.

What if staff or students have been in contact with someone who tests positive?

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.

Further COVID-19 protocols

In school we will continue to follow the advice given in the [Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance](#). Here is a brief summary:

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

- Students, staff and visitors will be expected to ensure good hygiene, and all will be encouraged to keep their hands clean. We will continue to encourage students to wash their hands regularly and we will continue to provide hand sanitiser in key places around school. Students may want to bring their own personal sanitiser if they wish, but they must use this responsibly.
- Our site staff will continue to ensure our premises are clean and safe for all of us to use.
- We will continue to ventilate the school as often as possible to ensure a safe and comfortable teaching environment is maintained.
- We will also have an outbreak management plan in place, as detailed in the guidance, in case there is an outbreak in school.

Student information

In our letter dated 16th July, we sent some key information regarding preparedness for school. This information is on the next two pages. Please can you read through this with your child to ensure that your child understands what is expected of them when they return to school next week. Please find some additional information below:

- All students will arrive via our main front gates and will enter school via reception, please see the following page for more detailed information regarding arrival times. Students who cycle to school can use any of our designated bike racks and the front or the side of our building.
- On arrival to school, students will need to go to their year group zones. The year group zones have been moved into a new area of the school and staff will be on hand on Monday to show students where to go.
- 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.
- Students will not require PE kit on Monday and should then check their new timetables to see when they will require it.

As the new term begins, the lifting of restrictions will allow all students the opportunity to take full advantage of the facilities that we have. For our Year 7 students, we are aware that their experience of secondary school has been far from typical. We have adapted some aspects of our school curriculum over the next two weeks to allow students time to delve into activities that we have had to restrict over the last 18 months or so. Students in Year 7 will be able to look forward to some practical DT, Science and Art lessons. Year 8 and 9 students will be forming their own political parties as part of our elections project, as well as taking part in some employability workshops. For students in Year 10 and 12, they will have the chance to focus on key aspects from their examination courses as part of our 'Grab-a-grade' fortnight. All students in Years 7 to 10 will take part in a 'sports festival' as part of an enhanced PE programme, hopefully they have all been inspired by the Olympics this summer. All of this will be explained to students on their return to school on Monday.

If you follow us on twitter, please tune in tomorrow where we will be sharing stories from our Year 11 students who will be getting their GCSE results, good luck to all of them for tomorrow!

If you have any further queries, please e-mail enquiries, enjoy the rest of your week, we will see the students on Monday.

Yours sincerely,



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 student's 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

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. There are no co-curricular clubs for Year 7 operating during this time.

School Day timings – Tuesday 31st August onwards

Students will be in their new year group from 31st August.

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 8:45am and finish at 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

For students in Year 11 only:

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

The school day will begin at 8:45am 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](#).