

30th August 2021

Return to school arrangements and keeping TeamTanfield safe

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you have all had a good summer.

We are excited about getting our students back into school this week and we have been working hard to ensure that your child is as safe as possible. I thought it would be useful to let you know about how we are planning to do this.

In my last letter I explained that the DfE has stated that we need to test all of our students twice, three to five days apart, when returning to school. The plan is to do this **on the 2nd of September at the following times:**

Year 11 - 8.40am

Year 8 - 9.40am

Year 9 - 10.40am

Year 10 - 11.40am

If these start times cause a problem, please let us know. The second test will take place on the 6th September.

Students will need to enter the school through the gate between the main building and the PE block and report to the gym. There will be staff present to direct them to the right place.

You may have seen that the current DfE guidance has removed most of the mitigations that were in place last year to keep everyone safe. The three biggest changes are:

1. There is no need for bubbles
2. Schools are no longer required to do contact tracing if there is a positive case as these will now be identified by Test and Trace
3. Students under the age of 18 years and six months are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, they will need to take a PCR test but don't need to isolate until the result. If they test positive they will then need to isolate.

We believe that these measures will not keep Teamtanfield members as safe as possible. In countries such as America and Scotland, where schools have already gone back, they have seen a large rise in cases that are being driven by younger people. This is despite having more mitigations in place than what is being suggested by the DfE. Therefore, we are going to implement some additional measures.



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

TANFIELD SCHOOL

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Minimising contacts and mixing

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). To achieve this we are going to maintain 'bubbles' during social times. At break and lunchtime students will be in a zone with the rest of their year group. As you will see on the timetable below, we have a split break and lunch. This is to ensure that there are three year groups on one break and two on the other. This allows us to keep all year groups separate during these times.

To avoid mixing at the start and end of the day we will be using three entrances to the school site. Once on site students will be separated into their year group zones. At the end of the day students will be escorted to their exit, by their teacher, to avoid mixing.

Last year, we had no in school transmission of COVID-19 and we believe that this was largely down to our use of face coverings. In other countries the use of face coverings are advised when there is high transmission within the community. This is defined as 50-99 cases per 100,000. In the Stanley North and East area, we have 291 cases per 100,000 as of the 28th August. This is an increase of 87 from the previous week. Therefore, there is high transmission and increasing within the area surrounding the school. **We are, therefore, requesting that your child bring a face covering with them to school.** We will support anyone who is struggling to get a face covering. If your child is exempt from wearing one for medical reasons, please let us know.

	8:30-8:40	8:40-9:00	9:00-10:00	10:00-10:15	10:15-11:00	11:00-11:15	11:15-12:15	12:15-12:45	12:45-13:10	13:10-13:40	13:40-14:35	14:35-15:05	15:05-16:05
Year 7	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break Inner Yard	Lesson 2		Lesson 3	Lunch Inner Yard	Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 8	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Break Inner Yard Zone 1	Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lunch Inner Yard Zone 1	Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 9	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break Outer Yard	Lesson 2		Lesson 3	Lunch Outer Yard	Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 10	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Break outer Yard	Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lunch outer Yard	Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 11	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Break inner Yard Zone 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lunch inner Yard Zone 2	Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Get Exam Ready

Robust hand and respiratory hygiene

We will ensure students clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. We have rotas for toilets to ensure students from different year groups can not mix. We have hand sanitiser stations for around the school. However, **we would encourage you to give your child their own bottle of hand sanitiser to bring to school.**

The **'catch it, bin it, kill it'** approach is very important. Therefore, we have tissues and bins available in all classrooms to support students and staff to follow this routine.

Enhanced cleaning arrangements

We have enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach. A designated team of staff will be following a cleaning schedule that ensures cleaning is enhanced and includes:

- more frequent cleaning of rooms / shared areas that are used by different groups
- frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal
- toilets will be cleaned regularly and students will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet

Contact tracing

Whilst schools are no longer required to contact trace and let parents know that their child has been in close contact with an infected individual, we will continue to do this.

A requirement that people who are ill stay at home

We need to look after each other and ensure that we are not spreading the virus to other members of the team. Therefore:

- Please book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms
- Ensure your child does not come into the school if they have symptoms (**a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.** Recently, a headache, sore throat, runny nose and sneezing have all been added as common symptoms.)
- Please provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if asked by NHS Test & Trace.
- If anyone in your family displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) please get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Once you have had a test we would ask you to inform us of the result immediately so that we can take the necessary actions.

If anyone in school becomes unwell they will be sent home. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be isolated in a designated room near to the main reception, with appropriate adult supervision. **It is really important that we have up to date contact details** to enable us to do this. Please contact us if any of this information has changed.

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If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. However, they could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.

If someone tests positive, they should isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill.

As mentioned earlier, there is no requirement for a child to self isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case, as long as they return a negative PCR test. However, from our experience, household transmission can take a few days. Potentially, your child could have a negative PCR test but then become positive later and still be attending school. To try and prevent this, we would encourage your child to take a LFD test daily before coming to school.

Ventilation

To ensure that we know what the quality of ventilation is in each of our classrooms, we have spent £5000 on installing Carbon Dioxide monitors in each room over the summer. These monitors will let us know if the ventilation is not adequate and that we need to move the class.

Start times for September

Students are to enter through the main entrance where staff will meet them and direct them to where they need to be. Throughout the day, students will be told about their usual entrance and exit points and all other aspects of what they need to do.

What students need to have and do on the first day

- Wear full uniform and ensure any piercings have been removed
- Arrive at their designated time through the main gate
- Bring a face covering
- Bring a reading book
- Bring a bottle of water

There is no need to bring equipment as we will be providing it.

Finally, we want to thank you for the continued support you have given. We will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. Until then, I wish you and your family all the best.

Take care and stay safe,



Mr S Clough
Headteacher

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