

28th July 2021

Start times for September

Dear parent/carer,

As the term comes to an end, I want to thank you all one final time for your tremendous levels of support over the last few months. We have worked extremely hard to ensure that the school has run as close to normal as possible this year, despite all of the challenges we have faced. I know from speaking to other Durham headteachers, we have managed to avoid the same level of disruption as they have. I truly believe that this has been down to the way that we have worked together, particularly the way that you have supported us with testing your child twice a week at home. This is no longer a requirement over the summer holidays, unless they are going to be attending summer school.

Whilst Covid cases are currently rising, we are unsure what the situation will be in September, when we are due to return. Therefore, we will write to you again, in the last week of the holidays, to explain how we will keep your child, your family and all of our staff as safe as possible. This has and always will be our number one priority.

What we do know is that all students need to be tested twice three to five days apart, upon their return to school. This will mean that there will be a staggered start on the 2nd of September. Please complete this form to give consent: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScR5MCh2NPu-JrynJPVoehQNR7u4emo5nYhgoeVOSyPNghvHg/viewform

All students need to report to the gym at the designated times on the 2nd September:

Year 11 - 8.40am

Year 8 - 9.40am

Year 9 - 10.40am

Year 10 - 11.40am

COVID-19 testing and contact tracing over the summer holiday

If a student develops symptoms on Saturday 17th July or Sunday 18th July only, after our last day of school and then tests positive, you are required to contact school by emailing help@tanfieldschool.co.uk and state 'Positive COVID case' in the subject bar so that we can carry out the process of identifying potential close contacts. In the email please make sure you provide the following information:

Name and advisory group of your child.

The date of when the symptoms started.

The date the confirmatory PCR test was taken.

The date the result came back.

If possible identify any immediate close social contacts your child has had during break and lunch time whilst in school, or indeed on their journey to and from school. A close social contact is defined as someone within 2 metres for 15 minutes or more.

However, where a student tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (from Monday 19th July onwards) the school does not need to be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace on receipt of the test result. Further details can be found at:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test- and-trace-if-youre-contacted-after-testing-positive-for-coronavirus/

Parent survey

As you will be aware, we have shared a parent survey to help us identify our areas of strength and areas to improve. I want to thank you for the fantastic response. We are striving for 100% of parents agreeing with all of the statements. Where we do not have 100%, I can guarantee that we will be addressing those areas next year and will keep you updated with our progress.

Finally, I want to thank you once again for your support, we have really appreciated it. I sincerely hope that from September we are able to resume as normal. However, as we have seen over the past 16 months the situation can change dramatically with very little notice. In the event that the national or local situation changes before the start of the new term I will be in touch with further guidance. I hope you enjoy the best summer possible and if at any point over the six weeks you need to get in touch, please use the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email.

Take care and stay safe,

Mr S Clough Headteacher