

13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Families

Can I firstly take this opportunity to thank you for all of your continued support over the year. We have all worked together to keep everyone as safe as possible whilst, at the same time, continuing to educate our learners. You will see from this term's newsletter that staff have worked very hard to continue to deliver engaging memorable experiences across all our sites.

Last week, schools and colleges were issued with new guidance on how they should operate from September after the country moves into step 4 of the recovery roadmap.

The main changes are that we will no longer have to maintain class bubbles so groups can mix more and we can get back to a more normal way of working.

There will no longer be the requirement to wear face coverings although this may change if locally, there are concerns around infection rates.

In addition, students under the age of 18, and adults who have received both vaccinations, who then become a contact of a confirmed positive case, will no longer need to isolate. Instead, they will be asked to take a PCR test. This new measure will come into place from August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Although we are relieved with some of these changes, we are also mindful that there are anxieties about the sharp rise of confirmed cases in the area. Therefore, some of the changes we have put in place will remain. e.g. using various entrances and exits, continuing to ventilate areas, good respiratory and hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning. As September is a long way off and guidance may change, we will continue to review the situation over the summer and update our operational risk assessment accordingly. We will keep you updated with any new information you need to know so please check our social media sites and websites.

Please be assured that, as always, the safety of all our school and college community will be the most important consideration. To support this, we encourage families, where possible, to regularly test their children over the summer break. This will help identify asymptomatic people within the community and therefore reduce the spread of transmission. Kits can be collected from local pharmacies or online. School and college will provide test kits to support testing the week before students return back in September. It's very important, if your young person can be tested using a lateral flow test, that you do so the week before we return. Please ensure tests are carried out on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and again on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Please remember, if your young person shows any symptoms, they should not come to school or college and should instead go for a PCR test as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or queries about September, or you need a box of tests for testing the week before we return, please contact your young person's teacher this week.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely and safe summer and we will see everyone back at school/college on the 6<sup>th</sup> September.



Mrs. L Greig  
(CEO)