

17 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of term. This has been the most incredible year for so many reasons and I would like to thank you for your continued support. We should not underestimate what has been achieved during this year. The challenges have been immense. I recognise that many of you may have been unwell, suffered bereavements, struggled with employment issues or had to spend significant periods self-isolating. Throughout all of this, your children have continued to show great resilience and I congratulate them on their achievements. Despite the pandemic we have celebrated success in the classroom, enjoyed seeing your children thrive and develop, as well as supporting them through the harder moments. Next week we will be sharing an edition of our 'Graham Gazette' with you. I hope that you will enjoy reading about our experiences during this final term of the school year.

Next week we will not be making any changes in school with regard to face coverings and 'bubbles'. We continue to have cases of covid in school and numbers of students self-isolating. We want to keep everyone free of the virus, so that the start of the holidays does not see groups of students and families having to self-isolate. Please can you ensure that your child has a face covering with them each day and that they understand the importance of wearing it.

In September, we are expecting to make changes in line with government guidance which will see the removal of the bubbles that we have had in place this year. This will mean that students will circulate around the whole school to lessons. We will be maintaining split breaks and lunchtimes and separate entrances as it eases congestion. As far as we know, at the moment, there will be no requirement for face coverings or social distancing. We will, of course, follow any new guidance during the holiday period and inform you of any changes.

As you may have heard, we have been asked by the Department for Education to offer covid testing for all students at the start of the new term in September. This testing will be using a nasal swab only. As you know, we need your consent for the testing and we will not offer your child a test without your consent. Many of you have already given consent for testing which will remain in place in September. If any of your details have changed or if you want to change your consent preferences please complete the form <https://forms.gle/DbzZHWTfQYKU5PUA6>

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The start of the new term will be slightly staggered to allow us to undertake the testing. The first tests will be offered to Y7 and Y11 on Monday 6 September, which is a Teacher Training day. They will come for their test and then go home during their time slot indicated below, they can expect to be at school for approximately 30 minutes. They do not need to wear their school uniform on that day. Students in Y7 and Y11 will then return to school on Tuesday 7 September. Students in Y8, Y9 and Y10 will come to school for their first test on Tuesday 7 September during their allocated time slot below and then go home. They do not need to wear their school uniform on that day. Students in Y8, Y9 and Y10 will return to school on Wednesday 8 September. The table below shows when your child will be tested and when they will start school in September. Please remember they will have moved to the next year group!

	<b>Test 1</b>	<b>Return to school</b>	<b>Test 2</b>
<b>Y7</b>	Monday 6 September 11.30 - 15.00	8.40am Tuesday 7 September	Thursday 9 September
<b>Y8</b>	Tuesday 7 September 10.00 - 12.00	8.40am Wednesday 8 September	Friday 10 September
<b>Y9</b>	Tuesday 7 September 11.30 - 14.00	8.40am Wednesday 8 September	Friday 10 September
<b>Y10</b>	Tuesday 7 September 13.30 - 15.00	8.40am Wednesday 8 September	Friday 10 September
<b>Y11</b>	Monday 6 September 13.00 - 15.00	8.40 am Tuesday 7 September	Thursday 9 September

When they return in September all students will be expected to be in full school uniform and ready for the start of the new year. All expectations are outlined in the letter from Mr Wilson, Vice Principal, which is also being sent to you today.

Next week, we are looking forward to our 'Rewards Day' on Tuesday. As outlined previously, students will be able to participate in a range of activities. This will include the opportunity to spend money on stalls being organised by Y7 students. We will be donating all money collected to the Rainbow Centre. There will also be a range of activities from traditional running races to a climbing wall and inflatables. In short, there will be something for everyone! We have organised this day to reward students for their commitment and resilience during this year. We hope they all enjoy the day!



Term will finish on Friday 23 July at 1.00pm, when all buses will depart. Food will be available for all students before they leave. The final day will be a non-uniform day. We will be continuing our collection for The Rainbow Centre as students enter school on Friday, for those wishing to make a donation. If your child is in Y8 and you would like to donate their tie and/or jumper we would be grateful as this helps us to top up our spare uniform supplies. We will collect any uniform donations at the end of school on Thursday or on Friday.

Finally, my thanks again for your continued support and for the encouragement you give to your children on a daily basis. We are very proud of what they achieve each day at school. When the holiday arrives, I hope you can enjoy a break and some quality time together with friends and family. I am optimistic that next year will be very different and I look forward to some degree of 'normality'.

Wishing you a restful holiday.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Robins', is placed below the typed name.

Emma Robins  
Principal