

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your support throughout what has been an academic year that has been challenging but hugely successful. We really can't do anything we are trying to achieve without your backing; all you are doing really makes a difference. **A reminder that we finish at 12.00pm today Friday July 16th and all need to be in full school uniform please as per my previous letter.**

Year 7 and Year 11 selected Prefects will be returning to us on Thursday 2nd September 2021 for a 08.40am start.

All year groups will be in from Friday 3rd September 2021 at the following times and places. Please note some slight changes which are highlighted in bold:

- Year 11 to come in for their Morning Enhancement classes at 8.15am, **lining up by the table tennis tables to be taken into their Morning Enhancement by their tutors**
- Year 10 will be in for 8.25am, **also lining up by the table tennis tables to be taken into their Morning Enhancement by their tutors**
- Year 9 8.40am start and are to line up by the old caretaker's house
- Year 8 8.40am as well and **also lining up by the table tennis tables**
- Year 7 on the netball courts and again an 8.40am start

I have tried to summarise the main points from last week's letter and also let you know what will happen with regards to testing.

COVID-19 update

We had five positive cases this week. The first youngster had been off since 30th June so no need for anyone to self-isolate, hence the reason why I have not shared until now. The next two were siblings and we had to isolate a number of our youngsters as you know. As well as one where we found out during period 3 yesterday, the latest one we were made aware of late last night. My apologies but as I have said many times, this was always going to happen and we must still remain cautious.

- From 16th August all youngsters will no longer have to self-isolate if they are a close contact
- Take a PCR test instead
- No need to test over the summer

We were advised last week by the local authority that we only need to test our Year 6 youngsters just before we return in September. Although this will be the least disruptive, for me morally I will be testing all of our youngsters twice. The simple fact is that we need to do this properly and for once I agree with this piece of government advice. I am trying to prevent there being an outbreak in school when we return and if I can do more to make sure this doesn't happen then I will.

Two LFT tests are to be taken on site before and at the beginning of the school year. All will be tested in the Construction area of our Resilience Building as before. Each of our youngsters will be given a registration card when they arrive for the test. They will need to follow the instructions on the registration card once they have had their test and left the Test Centre to receive notification of their negative result. The school will contact parents and carers of anyone who tests positive and make all of the appropriate follow-up arrangements.

We are unable to test from 30th August as this is a Bank Holiday and **we will let you know exact times the week beginning 23rd August. We will only book tests for those whose parents and carers have given consent. For any in Years 8 - 11, we will use our existing consent records to book appointments.** If there are any queries/questions, please email: nwh@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk.

- From 8.00am - 4.00pm Years 7 and 11 to be invited in for their first LFT on 31st August
- From 8.00am - 4.00pm Years 9 and 10 1st September
- From 8.00am - 4.00pm Year 8 2nd September

As in my last letter Year 6 parents and carers will need to give us consent using the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=F4M0YVUwSUazNM4yh22JtAJ-lbBYdWJMmX8mS4VYd_1URTIRVzhDSVE2OE9GTTZDUzJMMjJNM1NBNi4u

The options to select on the form include year group, so our current Year 6 parents and carers will need to select "Y7". The form also asks for the tutor group. **The deadline for this is Friday 30th July 2021.**

Break and lunch

- Separate break and lunch queues for different year groups
- The order will be rotated half-termly
- Year 7 will go to lunch at 1.10pm
- The rest of the school will go back to their 1.20pm lunch
- No seating indoors but additional seating outside
- Winter Plan – January-February half-term can eat indoors. Year 11 will be able to have their break and lunch during these months in Activity Studio One and Two
- Year 7 will stay on the netball courts
- Year 8 and 9 will remain on the lower field
- Years 10 and 11 will have the top field
- If it rains heavily Year 7 to use the Modern Foreign Languages corridor classrooms
- Year 8 will be up in science across both sides
- Year 9 down the Humanities corridor
- Year 10 in English and Year 11 in Maths

Keeping the one-way system

- This will be kept in place

Assemblies

- Will resume again in the Performance Hall
- The weekly remote assemblies will continue

Classrooms

- At lesson changeover we would like all to go straight into their classrooms
- Sanitise hands as go in
- No need to wipe down desks or equipment anymore

Consultation Evenings

- In person and on school site
- Use School Cloud as our electronic booking system

Changing for P.E

We will stick with the current arrangements of changing in the separate areas and if your youngster has P.E Period 1 please continue to come into school wearing our P.E kit. If the P.E lesson is Period 5 then please go home in the kit. We will review these arrangements as we go along.

Meal Deal price increase

Unfortunately I have had to make the decision to increase the price of the Meal Deal from £2.30 to £2.50 from September. This will be third price increase in twenty years and we have not increased this price for five years and the value of the goods we are buying have gone up.

Heads of Year from September

We had some exciting news earlier in the week that Miss Colston is pregnant, many congratulations to her. I wouldn't normally announce staff pregnancies but this does have a knock-on effect with regards to head of years.

Congratulations to Miss Macdonald who will be our Head of Year 8 from September. Miss Macdonald is currently one of our Resilience Coaches and she has secured an internal promotion. The following will be the case in September:

Head of Year 7 – Mrs Wykes

Head of Year 8 – Miss Macdonald

Head of Year 9 – Mr Barley

Head of Year 10 – Mr Davies

Head of Year 11 – Miss Colston and Miss Willmot

Miss Colston will go on maternity around January time. At this point Miss Willmot will pick up the year group on her own. This will allow for some consistency for the year group in such an important examination year.



Homework – Retrieval at Woodlands (RAW)

As you may be aware, the new academic year will see the launch of our exciting new home learning programme RAW knowledge. Designed in collaboration with Tassomai, Woodlands staff have created a sophisticated quizzing programme which personalises question queues to the needs of individual youngsters.

Subjects have been divided into three different buckets and our young people will need to achieve a target score in each bucket every day. The algorithm will select questions from subjects/topics that they struggle with the most and repeatedly question them on these until they have mastered the content. In the long term, this will support all with the development of their long-term memory. Our youngsters will be awarded points as they work through their question queues but the algorithm will ensure that the questions our young people are posed with are suited to their ability. Please find a link to a presentation that was made available to parents on YouTube in June with more information about our new homework programme:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IopHP_neWE.

All will be given the opportunity in the first week to log on to RAW knowledge and see how it works and Miss White, Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning will hold a live Q and A early next term however, if you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to contact Miss White at nwh@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk.

Uniform

If any of our youngsters are planning any piercings or extreme hairstyles or colours my advice is to do so early on so that all can be removed or washed or grown out by the time we start back. I have not heard of any delays or issues with our stock of uniform so we look forward to seeing all looking incredibly smart in our Woodlands uniform from the first day back.

Moving forward

We do not know exactly what the situation will look like in September with regards to the impact COVID may have. I feel sure that there will be some disruption to learning when we do receive positive notifications when our youngsters return after the summer break.

Woodlands will continue to be open, honest and communicate in the best way we can. Wishing you all a restful and hopefully safe break.

Very best wishes,

Mr David Wright
Head Teacher