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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

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27th August 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to remind all parents and carers that the start of term next week is staggered with different year groups attending at different times on different days. Once they return students should continue to attend going forward unless there is a medical reason why they cannot attend (especially if they have COVID symptoms). If the pandemic has taught as anything it is the power of being with teachers, face to face to support learning. I have sent a previous letter with information about the timings for the return to school, but for the avoidance of doubt the start of term for each year group is as follows.....

Tuesday 31st August 2021

08:40 Year 7

11:00 Year 12

12:00 Year 13 (who will leave after testing as they have no lessons this afternoon)

Wednesday 1st September 2021

08:40 Year 11

11:00 Year 8

Thursday 2nd September 2021

08:40 Year 9

11:00 Year 10

When students arrive at school they will be based in a room with their form group for two lessons to allow us to conduct the second Lateral Flow Test. Thank you to those students who have already completed their first on site Lateral Flow Test, if you have yet to complete an on site test I would encourage as many students as possible to take part next week. If this will be your first time taking the test on the DSTC site, then please complete the consent form - attached.



Additionally I wanted to update you on some COVID related guidance that directly affects your child at DSTC.

Asymptomatic testing on site will finish by Friday 3rd September 2021, after this there is no further testing planned on site. Students should continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, at which point, this will be reviewed by the Government.

As parents/carers may be aware, unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months, and fully vaccinated adults, are now no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with Covid-19, including if they live in the same household.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. The government strongly encourages all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so pupils and staff identified as close contacts should continue to attend school or college as normal.

18 year-olds will be treated in the same way as children and young people until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. After this point they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so, if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

As students will have had the opportunity to be tested twice prior to starting the term there will no longer be any on site testing. Students should continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the Government. Students will be given testing sets on their first day back at school.

I have also attached an information leaflet, from the NHS, about supporting secondary students during the ongoing pandemic.

We have reviewed our risk assessment for reopening and this is available on the website should you wish to view it.

We have been delighted to see students during the asymptomatic COVID testing and look forward to seeing them in full school uniform, well rested and ready to learn.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Davis
Principal