



9 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware on Monday 5 July, the Prime Minister shared with the nation his plans for easing the Coronavirus situation. On Tuesday 6 July the Secretary of State for Education also shared with schools the steps that will be taken which will include easing of restrictions about students having to self-isolate, the use of face coverings and on-site testing at the beginning of the new academic year.

From the school's perspective, all the measures we are currently taking, which include student 'bubbles' and isolation of students where positive tests occur, will continue until the end of term. It was made clear by the Secretary of State for Education that this should be the case. We have just two weeks left of this academic year and I would simply remind and urge you to follow current guidance, ensure your child comes to school and regularly test them at home. These measures continue to make a difference in ensuring we can operate as a school in a coherent way. We continue to deal with a small number of isolations of students and staff, but I am certain we can manage this over the next two weeks.

We are now awaiting final Department of Education guidance in terms of school reopening and the precautions we will need to take for the new academic year. It is expected that at the start of the academic year, students will require two on-site tests before their return. This may well require some logistical planning for us. We aim to write to parents before the new term begins to share these plans and the impact it will have on student return dates in September. As ever, we ask for your patience and support as this is managed in school.

It has also been made clear to schools that the vast majority of restrictions will no longer apply in the new academic year. We are hopeful this will ensure students will have a more consistent time in school next year and will not need to be isolated, as has been the case this year.

It remains essential that we are disciplined as we approach the end of the academic year and continue to abide by national guidelines.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Alison Merrills  
**Principal**