

9 July 2021

Dear parent / carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing with details of the arrangements for the end of the Summer Term and the start of the Autumn Term.

Arrangements for the end of the Summer Term

Term ends for students on Thursday 15 July (Friday 16 July is a staff INSET day). We will dismiss students in year group order, starting with Year 7 at 1:50pm. We expect all year groups to be off site by 2:00pm. If you need your child to remain at school and be supervised until the end of the school day, please contact the school office and we can arrange this.

Arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term

Key dates:

Monday 6 September: INSET day for staff

Tuesday 7 September: Year 7 and Sixth Form students return to school (Induction Day for Year 7 and Year 12 students).

Wednesday 8 September: Year 11 and Year 10 students return to school

Thursday 9 September: Year 9 and Year 8 students return to school

School Operations

We now have updated guidance from the government confirming the operational arrangements for schools in September. In line with the easing of restrictions nationally, most of the restrictions we have had in schools for the last year will be removed for the start of the Autumn Term. This means that:

- students will no longer be grouped in 'bubbles'
- students will move around the school to lessons
- year groups can mix again at break and lunch times
- activities such as assemblies can resume
- Students can use the changing rooms for PE
- all extra-curricular activities can take place

Please note that face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff or visitors in school from the start of the Autumn Term. This applies in school and to school transport. There will no longer be a legal requirement for students to wear a face covering on public transport. Please note that this guidance may change if there is an outbreak of Covid-19 in school or in the locality.

In September we will return to our normal start and finish times for all students. **All students are expected to be at school for 8:40am on the first day of term.** All students should enter the building through the main front entrance.

Students should arrive on site promptly each morning. Parents dropping children off by car should drop off on Green Lane. Duty staff will be on hand to help direct students.

Asymptomatic testing and close contacts

Testing remains important in reducing the transmission of infection within schools. Lateral flow testing will still be widely available over the summer, and families are encouraged to order kits online or collect these from your local pharmacy or health centre. We particularly

encourage you to ensure your child has taken a lateral flow test the day before they return to school in September.

The government is asking all secondary schools to test all students twice in school, 3-5 days apart, on their return in September. We will be contacting you separately to obtain consent for this testing for your child. Students in Years 8 and above are already familiar with how the testing process operates in school.

Students with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the NHS stay at home guidance and get a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test is negative, the student may return to school as long as they do not have Covid-19 symptoms.

Please note that from 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 (and those who have turned 18 within the last 4 months) will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Likewise, adults over the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are fully (double) vaccinated.

Lunch arrangements

We are anticipating that we will be able to offer our full catering service from the second week of the Autumn Term. Menus will be posted on our website two weeks in advance. Within our school lunch offer, special dietary requirements can be catered for, however we ask that you contact school to discuss any requirements in advance of the start of term. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive a school lunch free of charge. Students may also opt to bring a packed lunch to school. We ask that parents ensure their child's packed lunch contains a healthy balance of items.

Uniform and equipment

Uniform

All students are expected to be in full uniform from the beginning of the Autumn Term. Uniform items can be ordered from Emblematic online at www.emblematic.co.uk or by emailing your order to orders@emblematic.co.uk. School ties can be purchased from the main school office or ordered through your SCOPay account, £4.50. Please see our website for our full uniform list. If you have any questions about uniform, please contact school on 01670 812166 or admin@ashingtonacademy.co.uk, and a member of staff will be happy to help. Please remember that items such as school shirts, trousers and skirts can be bought from a wide range of suppliers but must meet our uniform requirements exactly. Students should bring their PE kit to school with them on days they have PE; they will use the changing rooms to change for PE lessons. All students should bring their PE kit to school with them on the first day of term.

Other equipment

All students should have a school bag which is big enough to carry an A4 folder (backpack styles are recommended to ensure the weight of the bag is evenly distributed on the back). Students should bring a pencil case to school, containing as a minimum a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber (please ensure your child also has spares of these items).

Water bottles

Students should bring a water bottle to school each day containing enough water to last for the day. Please note that only water is allowed in lessons. Energy drinks are not permitted in school.

Further information

If there is any further guidance over the summer holidays I will write to all parents with a further update. Information will also be posted on our website and Facebook page, so please check both regularly for updates. If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.



We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back refreshed and ready to go in the Autumn Term. Until then, I hope that you all have a safe and restful summer break.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Y Weston
Head of School

