

16 July 2021

Dear parents and carers

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you, and pay tribute to the staff and students who have navigated this year with tolerance, resilience and good humour, meaning we are able to end the year positively and look forward to the fresh challenges that September will bring.

Before we break there is some key information I need to share with you.

Changes to the Test and Trace system after 19 July

As you are aware, the UK moves to stage four of the roadmap on Monday, which means some changes to the requirements in schools in relation to contact tracing and the use of bubbles. At Weald, we will be maintaining our current risk assessment until the end of term (21 July) in all aspects with the exception of contact tracing (this is not done via the NHS) and the requirement of staff to wear facemasks in public areas of the school. We will allow all individuals to choose whether they wish to wear a face-covering or not.

The Department for Education released the following information for parents and carers yesterday in relation to the upcoming changes to test, track and trace:

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

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Charity, incorporated in England and Wales
Registration Number 7451660, Limited by Guarantee

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.

PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.

Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

From 16 August, *if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.*

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

Measures in place in school from September

Subject to any changes required of us by the Government between now and school reopening in September, the following measures will be in place from the start of the new academic year.

Students will no longer be kept in bubbles, although we have elected to retain multiple food service areas after positive feedback from staff and students. The details of these will be shared with students in the new year.

Students will move between lessons to the various specialist spaces, rather than remaining in bubble areas, however, we will be maintaining open windows and doors to ensure adequate ventilation, and hand sanitiser should be used on entry to rooms (this will be provided).

Toilets will no longer be allocated to specific bubbles, so students may use the most convenient one for them.

As you already know, we are continuing to ask students to wear their PE kits on the day of PE lessons, the details of the required kit are on our uniform list [here](#). We have also included plain black trainers in our acceptable footwear section of the guidance. Whilst we have been more lenient this year on issues of uniform, understanding the difficulties that families were facing, we must insist that from September the rules are fully complied with.

We will be publishing our full risk assessment on our website, which also contains details of actions we may be asked to take in the event of an outbreak of COVID 19 within the school community, these actions would only be taken in consultation with Public Health England.

Lateral Flow Testing in the new academic year

We have been asked to ensure that all students have taken two lateral flow tests in school during the first week of term. Our plans for lateral flow testing are as follows:

Year 7 will be guided through the process of lateral flow testing in school on Thursday 2 September. This will be their first test. We will not be performing the tests on the students, but will be guiding them to test themselves. If you are not happy for your child to be tested in this way, please let us know by emailing school@wealdgs.org so that we can keep a record of the lateral flow tests you will need to perform at home in place of the school testing. We will be requesting written consent from parents and carers in respect of this.

They will then also take a second test in form rooms, in line with the rest of the school on Monday 6 September.

Years 8-13 (current Years 7-12) have already been taking lateral flow tests at home this academic year, and permissions were requested last year. We will be using the consents we already have unless you indicate to us a change in your views on testing. If this is the case, please email school@wealdgs.org to inform us. Please also ensure your child is aware of your position on consent, so we can avoid any unintentional errors on the testing days.

We will be asking the whole school community to take a Lateral Flow Test at home on Thursday evening, 2 September, in advance of sports day. We would request that any adults also planning to attend do the same.

We will then facilitate, in form rooms, onsite testing for all students on Monday 6 September and Thursday 9 September in the first week of term.

Current guidance indicates that any positive tests in this time will require the student who tested positive to go home and isolate, but that no other members of the class will be required to do so. From this point onwards, lateral flow testing will be carried out at home.

Key dates for your diary

Wednesday 21 July

Last day of the summer term. Students will be dismissed by 12pm. As is tradition, this is an own clothes day. We ask for a suggested voluntary donation of £2 via ParentPay. Money raised will be shared between the Weald of Kent Development Trust and Play Action International, a charity which a former Weald student now works for, who support the rights of children to play and have dedicated play spaces. They currently work in Africa transforming unused community spaces in to play areas for local children.

Friday 3 September: Sports day, Tonbridge campus

We will be holding our whole school sports day, postponed from this academic year, on Friday 3 September. Parents and carers are invited to attend. The events will start at 9.15am and we will dismiss the students in time for their normal transport home at the end of the day.

There will be food stalls available on the day, or do bring a picnic.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer onsite parking for this event and would encourage the use of public transport where possible or the car-parks in town. Please be mindful of our neighbours if you do need to be closer to the site.

Students usually based at Sevenoaks will need to make their way to the Tonbridge campus on this day where they should report to the sports hall.

Friday 24 September: Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will be participating in the MacMillan coffee morning in September, and will share details closer to the time. However, it is our intention to invite family members to join us for an extended break, and a mountain of cake to raise money for an excellent charity which is close to so many of us. Do put the date in your diary!

School tours and meet the tutor

As you are aware, we will be inviting parents and carers in for an afternoon tour of the school with their child, followed by an opportunity to meet their form tutor. Please see below the dates we have set aside for these to take place. We will contact you in the new academic year with details of the booking system so you can reserve your space. The sessions will run during period 5, up until 4pm on the day listed. Don't forget to add a year to your child's form group, for example if they are currently in 7A this year, they will be in 8A next year.

TONBRIDGE	Form groups		SEVENOAKS	Form groups
15 September	8A + 8B		14 September	8H
16 September	8C + 8D + 12A		15 September	8I
22 September	8E + 8F + 12B		16 September	8J
23 September	8G + 7A + 12C		22 September	7H
29 September	7B + 7C + 12D		23 September	7I
30 September	7D + 7E + 12E		29 September	7J

TONBRIDGE	Form groups		SEVENOAKS	Form groups
6 October	7F + 7G + 12F			
7 October	12G + 12H			
Half term break				
9 November	10A + 10B		9 November	10G
10 November	10C + 10D		10 November	10H
11 November	10E + 10F		11 November	10I
16 November	11A + 11B		16 November	10J
17 November	11C + 11D		17 November	11G
18 November	11E + 11F		18 November	11H
24 November	9A + 9B		24 November	11I
25 November	9C + 9D		25 November	11J
1 December	9E + 9F + 13A		1 December	9G
2 December	13B+ 13C		2 December	9H
8 December	13D+ 13E		8 December	9I
9 December	13F + 13G		9 December	9J

Parent and carer consultation evenings:

The dates for parents and carers' consultations evenings, which will now be held online using the school cloud system are listed below. We will be sharing information with parents and carers on the use of the new system in the new academic, in advance of the first consultation date.

Year 7:	25 January 2022
Year 8:	28 September 2021
Year 9:	11 January 2022
Year 10:	23 November 2021
Year 11:	21 September 2021 and 1 March 2022
Year 12:	30 November 2021
Year 13:	14 September 2021 and 8 February 2022

Staff farewells

It is the time of year where we bid a fond farewell to staff leaving us at the end of the academic year. I know you will want to join us in thanking them for their service and wish them all the very best.

Retirements: the following staff are retiring from Weald at the end of this year

Mr Cordon	Mr Cordon has been a key member of the DT team since 2013. He has supported countless students in their practical projects with amazing patience and no small degree of skill. He will be missed enormously and we hope he enjoys his retirement.
Dr Green	Dr Green has been our senior science technician since 2012. He has led his team through many changes and developments including the development of our new prep room space and supporting the development of the new building.
Mrs O'Flynn	Mrs O'Flynn has been a member of the Geography team at Weald for the last 15 years, most recently as Head of Department. She is retiring from teaching after a 35-year career, during which time she has impacted upon so many students and their journeys through Weald and beyond.
Mr Robinson	Mr Robinson has been a teacher at Weald since 2006. He is a wonderful teacher and an extremely talented artist, who has

	enabled many students to uncover their artistic flair over the years. He will be a great loss to the school and we wish him all the very best.
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Staff moving on to pastures new

The following staff are moving on to new opportunities elsewhere, we thank them for their service and wish them all the very best.

Mr O'Sullivan – Head of Physics
Miss Donohue – Head of Year
Miss Alexander – Teacher of RE

As always, thank you for your support and understanding. We are looking forward to September with hope and optimism and are excited to be able to invite you back to meet in person again.

In the meantime, do have a restful summer holiday when it comes.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Bone
Headteacher