



14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I apologise for the length of this letter, but there is very important information for your son/daughter for the start of the new academic year in light of recent Government changes for schools regarding COVID-19.

Please kindly print off and keep a copy of this email for ease of reference.

### **Re: Changes to government guidance for schools regarding COVID-19**

Following the announcement from the Secretary of State for Education on 6th July and now having received the updated Department for Education (DfE) guidance, I just wanted to give you an update about the school's plans for the start of the autumn term.

#### **Summary of new DfE guidance**

- The government is recommending that **face coverings** will no longer be necessary in any education setting.
- From 16th August, the legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18, and for adults who have been fully vaccinated. This means that **from the autumn term, only those who test positive will need to self-isolate.**
- **From 16<sup>th</sup> August NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing** in all education settings rather than it being run by the school or college. Those identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test, and only need to isolate if they test positive. Children must self-isolate if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result.
- **Two onsite Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests should be taken by each secondary school student on return to school in September, followed by twice weekly testing at home.** The government will review testing requirements by the end of September. More details about this can be found below.
- **Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests** whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.
- Secondary schools should also retain a small **asymptomatic testing site (ATS)** on-site until further notice so they can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.
- All education staff are urged to get both vaccine doses if they have not yet done so, helping further reduce any potential disruption as a result of self-isolation.
- Where students do need to isolate from September, schools are expected to continue to provide high quality **remote education** to these students, this will be via TEAMS
- **Assemblies** can recommence.
- **Control measures** should continue in schools. These include: ensuring good hygiene for everyone; maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes; keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Schools will be expected to maintain **outbreak management plans** to cover the possibility that in some local areas, **it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period.** Any decision would not be taken lightly. Outbreak plans should also cover **the possibility of the re-introduction of masks.**
- **Attendance** is mandatory for all students of compulsory school age and it is priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.
- All **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) children** and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.

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As a result of the above, the following will apply:

- The school will commence on-site **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing** from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September up to and including Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. More details on this are attached.
- Whilst **face coverings** are no longer *required* to be worn from 19<sup>th</sup> July, students and staff will still be able to wear them if they choose to do so. This is a personal decision.
- Our normal expectations regarding **school uniform and personal appearance** will apply. Please note, **from the start of the autumn term, students who have PE should come to school in full school uniform** as they will be changing into PE kit before their PE lesson.
- **Students will have zoned social areas** in Phases: Phase 1 (year 7 and 8) - playground and tennis courts, Phase 2 (year 9 and 10) – field, Phase 3 (Years 11, 12 and 13) – Wilson/ Sixth Form Centre and Plaza
- **Students will be able to purchase food at break as follows** – Phase 3 Wilson café every day. Phase 1 and 2 alternate days in the Dining Room
- **Lunch will be in two sittings for food but all students will have 45 minutes**

**Arrangements at The Coleshill School – September 2021**

The timings for school day from September 2021 are indicated below.

Registration:	8.45
Period 1:	09:05
Period 2:	10.05
Break:	11.05
Period 3:	11.25
Lunch:	12.25
Period 4:	13.10
Period 5:	14.10
Dismissal:	15.05 (years 7 & 8) 15:10 (years 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13)

**Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing**

You may be aware that guidance for schools has been revised, aligned with Step 4 of the Government’s roadmap out of COVID 19. Part of this new guidance includes secondary schools offering two lateral flow tests to all students, on site, before return to the classroom in September, in addition to testing twice weekly at home with self-testing kits.

By testing we will help to reduce the spread of COVID 19 through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested and to continue with self-testing at home on a twice weekly basis thereafter.

Lateral flow testing on site will be carried out via the same process as when schools reopened earlier this year. All consents previously given for lateral flow testing will be carried forward, **unless you notify school of a change to remove or provide consent**. by using the [enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org) email address. We have written separately to next year’s Year 7 parents/carers to seek their consent and separate arrangements will be made for our new Year 12 students.

Please kindly find attached further details on the dates and times for the LFD testing.

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**Staggered start to autumn term – please kindly note the following changes as a result of government guidance for schools. This supersedes the letter sent out previously with term dates, before the testing guidance was announced.**

As you will see, we will operate a **staggered return of students, rather than all students returning to school on the same day**, in line with the DfE guidance. With this staggered return of students, this will also impact upon when your son/daughter begins to attend school at the start of the autumn term. All students will return to school by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Please note that year groups noted below correspond to the year group your son/daughter will be entering at the start of the 2021/22 academic year, not their current year group. The following will therefore apply:

- Students will return to school the day of their first LFD test (with the exception of year 12 and 13)

Date	Arrangements
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Year 12 and 13</b> are invited to attend between 12:00 and 15:00 for their first test only and return home.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 7</b> students should assemble in the playground at 8.45am. Students will be greeted by tutors and will partake in their first LFD test and begin induction. <b>Year 11</b> students should arrive between 12:00 and 15:00 for their first LFD test and remain in school. <b>Year 13</b> students should arrive at 08:45 to begin lessons.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 8</b> students should arrive between 08:45 and 12:00 for their first LFD test and remain in school. <b>Year 10</b> students should arrive between 12:00 and 15:00 for their first test and remain in school. <b>Year 11</b> students should arrive at 08:45 to begin lessons. <b>Year 12</b> students should arrive at 08:45 and go to the sixth form centre.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 9</b> students should arrive between 08:45 and 12:00 for their first test and remain in school. <b>Year 10</b> students should arrive at 08:45 to begin lessons.

Individual testing times, by tutor group, can be seen on the attached timetable and will be texted as a reminder on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**During the LFD testing period, students arriving on site for their first LFD tests should enter via the green side gate and go directly to the dining room** for their allocated time (with the exception of our new year 7 students).

**Students must be in full school uniform.**

### **Control measures**

We will continue to enforce control measures: ensuring good hygiene for everyone; maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes; keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

In line with government guidance, we will continue to ensure that students clean their hands regularly with sanitiser and use the “catch it, bin it, kill it” method.

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### **When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test**

We will follow the guidance, which clearly states: "When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test, pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. **They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19** (for example, they are required to quarantine). **If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.** For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household. The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection".

### **Confirmatory PCR tests**

The guidance clearly states:

**"Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.** If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil or member of staff can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms."

### **Student wellbeing and support**

We appreciate that some students may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. We will continue to support these students and their families.

I hope this information is helpful. I am sorry it is so detailed, but we have had to carefully consider the latest guidance and have aimed to keep you informed about arrangements as soon as possible. We appreciate that there is a lot to take in! We are really looking forward to the next school year and getting back to what we hope will be some degree of normality.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the School on the [enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org) email.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

*I Smith-Childs*

Mr Smith Childs  
Headteacher

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**The Coleshill School Timetable for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Please note: the year group indicated below refers to the year group each child will be joining from the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

Timings	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	6 <sup>th</sup> September	7 <sup>th</sup> September	8 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Arrival time</b>	<b>Year 12/Year 13</b>	<b>Year 7/Year 11</b>	<b>Year 8/Year 10</b>	<b>Year 9</b>
8.45am		<b>YEAR 7 RETURN</b>	<b>8B-ADAMS</b>	<b>9B-RAWLINS</b>
9.05am			<b>8B-DUFFIELD</b>	<b>9B-PHILLIPS</b>
9.25am			<b>8G-RAINES</b>	<b>9G-GARLAND</b>
9.45am			<b>8G-O'ROURKE</b>	<b>9G-GODWIN</b>
10.05am			<b>8D-FIRTH</b>	<b>9D-OBORG</b>
10.25am			<b>8D-HODKINSON</b>	<b>9D-PANESAR, J</b>
10.45am			<b>8N-TONGUE</b>	<b>9N-TOOLEY</b>
11.05am			<b>8N-POINTON</b>	<b>9N-CHAWNER</b>
12.00pm	<b>6B-WILKINSON</b>	<b>11B-LAMBURN</b>	<b>10B-BROCKLEBANK</b>	
12.20pm	<b>6B-SCOTT HOWELL</b> +	<b>11B-WHITEHOUSE</b>	<b>10B-BURROUGHS</b>	
12.40pm	<b>6G-MOUNTNEY</b>	<b>11G-COSTA</b>	<b>10G-DAVIS</b>	
13.00pm	<b>6G-GREGORY HOWELL</b> +	<b>11G-DANIELS</b>	<b>10G-BRADSHAW</b>	
13.20pm	<b>6D-COLLYMORE</b>	<b>11D-HALLIGAN</b>	<b>10D-HUMPHRIES</b>	
13.40pm	<b>6D-OWEN</b>	<b>11D-CHATFIELD</b>	<b>10D-LANDER</b>	
14.00pm	<b>6N-COOMBS</b>	<b>11N-HOLLAND</b>	<b>10N-AHMED</b>	
14.20pm	<b>6N-PEEBLES</b>	<b>11N-TURTON</b>	<b>10N-JORDEN</b>	