



19th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the summer break.

I am writing to update you on where we are with staff absence, changes to the last week of term and a reminder about the start of term.

Learning from home: Yr10 and 12. (Years 7,8 and 9 in school as normal)

Firstly, I am going to ask that Years 10 and 12 learn from home starting tomorrow, Tuesday 20th July, until the end of term (Sports Day competitors will be in tomorrow - please see below). Years 7,8 and 9 will continue as normal in school. The reason for this is that our current level of staff absence following NHS Track and Trace isolation notices has put us in a difficult position. The number of positive cases amongst staff is extremely low, but colleagues have received notices to isolate and today we have many members of staff isolating. I need to be mindful of having sufficient staff in school to cover lessons and having Years 10 and 12 learning from home will enable us to staff the remaining year groups. Lessons for Years 10 and 12 will run as per the timetable via either Google or MS Teams and will involve live elements from Wednesday onwards. Teachers will communicate with their classes on how the lessons will operate. To be clear, Years 10 and 12 are NOT isolating, just learning from home. Some of the lessons on Tuesday, 20th July may not have live elements as some staff are involved in Sports Day. In these cases, activities will be left for students to complete.

Sports Day

We will run Sports Day as scheduled, but it will **only involve the athletics competitors** - there will be no additional spectators. This means that the rounders and 'tug of war' events will not now go ahead. Year 10 and 12 competitors will be at Sports Day; they should come into school as normal and will return to school for period 5 with all other competitors. All competitors should come to school in their PE kit and must have the following items with them; sun hat, sun cream, lots of water, packed lunch. Competitors may also wish to bring some money to buy an ice cream. The PE team have given students a comprehensive set of instructions about Sports Day and I encourage competitors to reread this information.

Lateral Flow Testing

We have been asking students to lateral flow test twice a week, but in this last week of term, I ask that you arrange for your child to test every day. Since Government no longer requires schools to track and trace, students testing every day this week will further help to ensure that we keep school as free from COVID as possible in the run up to the summer break. I have also asked staff to do the same.

We will be offering 2 lateral flow tests to all students at the start of the Autumn term. Those parents who gave consent previously do not have to do so again since we have a record of you giving consent, but those parents who didn't previously consent and now would like to consent have the chance to do so. Please use the link [here](#) to access our consent form.

We will write to you with details of the lateral flow test programme in due course, but it is likely that it will be from 31st August.

IMPORTANT: COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION CHANGES

Please see below changes to the self-isolation processes and procedures in place across our school and Trust. This reflects the most recent updates in government guidance.

COVID-19 – AT-HOME TEST

If your child, or a member of your household has tested positive on a home lateral flow test, they will still be required to self-isolate until results of a PCR is received.

COVID-19 - PCR TEST

If your child, or a member of your household has tested positive on a PCR test, they are still required to self-isolate for the 10-day period.

NHS Track and Trace Notifications

If your child is notified by NHS Track and Trace that they have been a close contact to a positive case, they are required to self-isolate.

School track and trace ending

If your child has been identified as 'in close contact to a positive case' by our in-school track & trace system while attending Plymouth High, please disregard, they **CAN RETURN to school on Monday 19th July 2021**, unless they are showing symptoms, have tested positive for Covid-19 or have been notified by NHS Track and Trace to self-isolate.

Last day summer term and the first day of the Autumn term

The last day of term is Friday, 23rd July. Students will finish at 12.30pm. Parents who wish for school to supervise their child until 3.30pm on the last day should contact their child's Head of Year who will arrange for them to wait in a safe place.

The first day of the Autumn term for Years 7 and 12 will be Tuesday, 7th September and for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 it will be Wednesday, 8th September. School will start at the normal time on both Tuesday and Wednesday and both are full school uniform days. Please see [here](#) for the uniform page on our website.

I wish you all a very happy summer and encourage you to take a look at our website or Facebook page to see all the wonderful things our students have been up to.

Very best wishes



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.