

16th July 2021

SG/kb

Dear Parents/carers

It is a real shame that the term has ended as it has and I know we are all looking forward to a well-earned break this summer. However, as one chapter ends, hopefully, a new and bright chapter will commence in September. As this is my last parent mail of the year I have included a lot of information regarding the start of school in September.

As the government moves to step 4 of the roadmap this marks a new phase in their response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day to day lives. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, it is imperative to reduce the disruption to children's education. With this in mind we aim to return the school to how it was before the pandemic started.

From September we will no longer keep students in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling a return to a full curriculum for all, it means that assemblies can resume, canteens can open fully and there will be no need for year groups to avoid mixing during break and lunch. Face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in the classroom or in communal areas. Face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on the school bus and are no longer legally required on public transport but of course students may continue to wear a mask if they so wish. However, we may be advised by the government, public health England and the local authority if there is an outbreak in the school or locally that some of the previous restrictions may have to be temporarily re-introduced. They will only be considered as a last resort and for the shortest amount of time possible. We will continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes and keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

From Monday 19th July, and the duration of the summer holidays, the school is not required to test and trace so you are not required to contact the school regarding a positive case.

From 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are in close contact of a positive case. Instead children will be contacted by NHS test and trace if they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Only children who test positive will need to self-isolate.

As per the government's operational guidance for schools in September, students will potentially mix with lots of other people over the summer holidays, and with the number of cases we have had in the last ten days, all students will receive two on site lateral flow device tests, three to five days apart, on their return in September. This will follow the same highly successful format we used in March to ensure all students only returned to school with a negative LFT. This means there will be a staggered return of students across the first week to manage this and the full schedule and details for all year groups will be sent out on Monday. Students then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, which will then be reviewed. Like all government guidance this is subject to change over the summer!

The School Day 2021/22

- Extended Monday registration/Assembly
- 1 hour combined for breaks
- Session 6 – recovery and revision sessions run by departments
- Wednesday 5 PSHE/Additional Support/Creative catch up

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM Reg	8.45 – 9.15	8.45 – 8.55	8.45 – 8.55	8.45 – 8.55	8.45 – 8.55
1	9.15 – 10.10	8.55 – 9.55	8.55 – 9.55	8.55 – 9.55	8.55 – 9.55
2	10.10 – 11.05	9.55 – 10.55	9.55 – 10.55	9.55 – 10.55	9.55 – 10.55
Break	11.05 – 11.30	10.55 – 11.20	10.55 – 11.20	10.55 – 11.20	10.55 – 11.20
3	11.30 – 12.25	11.20 – 12.20	11.20 – 12.20	11.20 – 12.20	11.20 – 12.20
4	12.25 – 1.20	12.20 – 1.20	12.20 – 1.20	12.20 – 1.20	12.20 – 1.20
Break	1.20 – 1.55	1.20 – 1.55	1.20 – 1.55	1.20 – 1.55	1.20 – 1.55
5	1.55 – 2.55	1.55 – 2.55	1.55 – 2.55	1.55 – 2.55	1.55 – 2.55
6		3 - 4	3 - 4	3 - 4	3 - 4

The timetable

The timetable will return to a more recognisable form from September 2021, including a return to KS5 subject lessons being scheduled across the school week. A return of tutor time will be in the morning only.

PSHE/Enrichment

We will not continue with the PSHE/Enrichment rotation by half term through the academic year 2021/22. It will be necessary to deliver a wide ranging PSHE programme, interspersed with 'recovery' sessions and opportunities for music, sport, art and drama.

Careers support

The careers team will continue to offer high quality support and guidance through the Google Classroom with careers and apprenticeships opportunities, for example. '1 to 1' meetings should return for our key year groups which will be hugely beneficial in helping with course and career choices at the various options stages.

Canteens

The school canteens will be open and follow previous designation (Upper/Lower).

Entrances/Exits

Return to multiple points of entry/exit at both sites.

Homework

Staff and students will continue to use google classroom for setting of homework and, where appropriate, the submission of work. This will also act as their virtual planner and organiser.

Parents' Evenings

These have been hugely successful as online events and, as a result, will continue to be delivered in this way.

Uniform/PE Kit (see attachment)

Students are expected to wear full uniform at all times, including the days they have PE. They will bring their PE Kit on the appropriate day(s) and change at school.

Our expectations in regards to student uniforms will be very high in September, as we move away from the temporary measures that have been put in place during our COVID restrictions. Please familiarise yourselves with attached Uniform list and use the summer

break to ensure that your child is able to return to school dressed smartly. This includes guidance in regards to make-up, jewellery and hair styles (6th form dress code has been sent out)

Session 6

These will run from the second week in September. Much as in 2020/21, there will be a strong 'Revision & Recovery' Programme. Each session can last for up to 1 hour.

ASPIRE Sessions

These have worked well on Google Classroom and this approach has also allowed a cross campus element to be developed. Therefore, this will largely remain an online aspect of the wider curriculum experience. There may be exceptions to this when, for example, there are practical sessions planned.

EduLink

This is our new communication platform for parents. This will be fully rolled out in September.

Approaches to Teaching & Learning

Priorities for September will be to revisit and embed both our clear routines and consistent standards in relation to classroom etiquette, exercise books etc and the range of strategies that we can use to identify and build on prior knowledge, work the room, check for understanding, and adapt our teaching in response to students' needs. Central to this will be ensuring that our teaching is responsive to the needs of our SEND students and that we work effectively with our team of expert SEND staff.

In relation to regular assessment and focussed feedback, from September we will focus on embedding retrieval practice strategies, such as low stakes testing that help students to develop knowledge fluency and continue our work to ensure that marking and feedback are both meaningful and manageable and support student progress.

SEN

How SEN will work in classrooms – a return to in class support

Students will be allocated TA support based on their needs (e.g. by EHCP or other assessed need). TAs will work in the classroom, circulating to ensure the identified student(s) are supported with their learning. The TA may take individuals or small groups out to complete a task as requested by the teacher or as a strategy on their PPP.

EQUIPMENT

Could you please ensure that your child returns to school in September with the compulsory basic equipment. This will support their learning and enable students to meet the Ousedale standard. I have attached a copy of the basic equipment list for your reference.

ROLE OF THE FORM TUTOR

As we return to our normal pastoral structure it is important to reiterate the importance of the form tutor. The form tutor should be the first point of contact for any issue regarding your child. I have attached the pastoral structure for the 2021-22 academic year. This is a reminder of students form tutors and the tutor base classroom where they will register each day. Any email communication sent via the address admin@ousedale.org.uk will be forwarded to the correct form tutor.

There is a lot of information but I hope it provides a clear picture of what is required by the school to operate safely in September and also what the new and exciting school day will look like. We are all excited to get back to normality again.

On a final note thank you for your support it has been invaluable. I look forward to a bright and fresh start in September for all and I have no doubt the school will 'fly' again with all restrictions lifted. Have a good summer and I am immensely proud of all our students and staff and it has been a privilege to be Acting Headteacher over the past seven months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Glover', written in a cursive style.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Glover
Acting Headteacher