

7 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 7 Covid adjustments to the school day

Following the announcement from Mr Hewlett, I write with further details of the arrangements that we need to put in place for Year 7 in an effort to reduce transmission within our community. The following adjustments to the school day will take effect for Year 7 from Wednesday 8 December and will be in place until the end of the Michaelmas Term.

Face coverings

Students are already wearing face coverings when inside the buildings in communal areas and this should continue. Students should now also wear their face coverings during lessons.

Hand and respiratory hygiene

Students should bring hand sanitiser and tissues to school. Hand sanitiser should be used at the start and end of lessons and students should wash their hands regularly using the hand-washing stations throughout the College site. Students should 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.

Arrival

Students should arrive through the Main Entrance. Year 7 students will not be allowed to go to the Refectory before school and should go straight to their form room on arrival.

Assembly

All assemblies will be remote until the end of term.

Classroom hygiene and ventilation

When a Year 7 lesson takes place in a classroom, the desks should be cleaned at the start and end of the lesson. Doors and windows should be open to allow for ventilation. Given the weather is colder, students will be allowed to wear coats in lessons if required.

Break

During morning break, Year 7 students should go to their allocated space in the Plaza. Year 7 students will not be able to go to the Refectory during break and should therefore bring in their own nut-free snack for break time, if they wish. During wet break, Year 7 students will be allowed in their form room.

Lunch

Year 7 students will go to lunch at 1250 and will sit together on one side of the Refectory. Students will no longer be able to use self-service and will be given pre-plated food.

Forder programme

Forder programme activities that are for Year 7 only will continue. However, Year 7 students will not be able to take part in cross-bubble Forder activities. Their form tutor will provide additional information on the arrangements for these days.

Sports kit and changing

On days when students have Sport and Exercise Science, Games or a Forder activity that requires sports kit, they should come to school wearing their sports kit. The changing rooms will not be used by Year 7.

Toilets

Year 7 students should continue to use the student toilets in the main building and the STEM block. However, should wear a face covering when doing so.

Departure

Students should depart from the Main Entrance at 1600. They should leave the site directly and should not mix with students from other year groups.

Testing

We have received guidance from Public Health England that asks students in Year 7 to increase the frequency of lateral flow testing to daily. We therefore encourage students in Year 7 to commence daily lateral flow testing. We have a limited supply of lateral flow testing kits at school and therefore recommend that families either visit their local pharmacy or the Government website to order more.

I know that this will be a disappointment to our students, particularly the cancellation of the Christmas events that were planned for the end of term. As Mr Hewlett discussed, we will do all we can to keep elements of festivity to the final days of the Michaelmas Term and celebrate all that Year 7 have achieved in their first term in the Senior School. We appreciate that this may cause anxiety for some students and we will be working as a pastoral team to support our Year 7 students both in the College and remotely. If you or your child have any questions or concerns please contact the relevant form tutor or Mrs Money.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Davies
Head of Lower School