



14 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another disrupted but successful school year, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. Despite the changes and challenges that the pandemic has added to daily life, our young people have continued to show the qualities we value in our Wade Deacon students; they have worked with determination and positivity, displayed resilience and adapted to new routines and restrictions with great maturity. I am proud that, through the commitment of our staff, our focus on high quality learning and teaching has continued throughout the year. Our school community has pulled together and we can now, hopefully, look forward to a return to greater normality.

During the summer, we will be busy preparing for the next academic year. We have made a significant investment into improving the school premises and facilities to further support and enhance the quality of teaching and learning within our school and we are confident that students will experience the benefits of this when they return in September.

End of term (July 2021)

School will close on Friday 16 July at 12.15pm. Lunch will not be provided on Friday however, if your child is entitled to Free School Meals the school will provide a packed lunch on request. Please email the school by 3.00pm on Thursday 15 July if you wish to have lunch provided.

Arrangements for the start of term (September 2021)

Based on the latest guidance for September, there is no requirement for restrictions or additional risk assessments to be in place when the school re-opens in September. It is not unlikely that this guidance will change and we will respond accordingly.

Asymptomatic Testing

Last week, the Government published guidance to schools directing all consenting students to take two on-site Lateral Flow Tests at the beginning of the new term. The first of these tests must be completed before students can return to school. As you will understand, this presents significant logistical issues for a school of our size. As a result, there will be a staggered start to the new school year so that we can complete testing as quickly as possible and minimise on-going disruption.

Year Group	Testing Day (Test 1)	Return to School	Remote Learning
7	Thurs 2 Sept	Fri 3 Sept (9.30am-1.15pm) for Transition activities	Thurs 2 Sept
8	Friday 3 Sept	Monday 6 Sept	Thurs 2 Sept & Fri 3 Sept
9	Friday 3 Sept	Monday 6 Sept	Thurs 2 Sept & Fri 3 Sept
10	Thurs 2 Sept	Monday 6 Sept	Thurs 2 Sept & Fri 3 Sept
11	Thurs 2 Sept	Monday 6 Sept	Thurs 2 Sept & Fri 3 Sept

Once students have received a first negative test result, they may return to school on the specified date above. If a student tests positive, they will need to self-isolate and take a PCR test, in line with Government guidance. Fortunately, from 16 August, anyone identified as a 'close contact' who is under-18 will not need to self-isolate unless they themselves test positive. The second Lateral Flow Tests will take place during the school day, as shown below:

Year Group	Testing Day (Test 2)
7, 10, 11	Tuesday 7 Sept
8, 9	Wednesday 8 Sept

Asymptomatic testing works most effectively when consent and participation levels are high, so I encourage all students to take part. **To give consent, please follow the link provided with this letter, even if you have previously consented to testing.** Further details about testing and remote learning provision will be shared in due course.

Testing during summer holidays

If your child tests positive for COVID 19 after the last day of school until 19 July you can inform the school via school@wadedeacon.co.uk. Whilst restrictions ease I would encourage families to remain vigilant and to continue with testing during the summer holidays.

Year 11 GCSE Results

GCSE results will be issued on 12 August 2021. Parents and carers of Year 11 students will receive further guidance about arrangements for collecting results soon. Despite the easing of restrictions, we will be managing the numbers on site by staggering arrival times for students and we politely ask that these are adhered to.

I would like to congratulate our students on a very successful year. I hope that everyone enjoys a safe and restful summer break and I look forward to seeing students return in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Corner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Simon Corner
Principal