



Taverham  
High School

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Headteacher Ms Carol Dallas

To: all parents/carers

21 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope your child has enjoyed the last few days and that the school trips and sports day have reminded them of the wider possibilities outside the classroom that our school offers. As we approach the end of a very challenging and testing school year, we wanted to write to you to give you an idea of how we expect things to be in September. It is, however, worth noting that things could well change over the summer break and we will write you again in late August to confirm final arrangements if they differ from this.

We hope, from September, to be able to return to normal rooming and to be able to release students from their year group bubbles. This will be a huge step forward for all members of our community as teachers will be able to work in their own areas again and students will all be able to benefit from our specialist teaching areas and resources. To minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19, we intend to ask students to continue to regularly sanitise their hands and to clean down their seats and tables at the end of period 4.

From September students and staff will not be expected to wear face masks in and around school. We do however recognise that for some students and families you may feel more comfortable and secure in wearing a mask; should you wish your child to wear a mask in school we will fully support this decision. Please note that if your child uses one of the school buses or public transport, they should continue to wear a face mask for such journeys.

Students will be required to attend school in full school uniform each day as the PE facilities will once again be available for students to use over the course of the day. Further guidance and information on our uniform suppliers can be found via [the school website](#). If you have any concerns regarding school uniform, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Students will no longer be expected to enter through separate entrances. They are expected to be in their period 1 rooms by 8:30 am, sanitising their hands on entry to the room. They should enter the school through the front entrance and use only the bike sheds that are situated alongside the field. Period 1 will now be used to register attendance to school, so it is vital that all students are on time and that they do not go to their form rooms. Students should not arrive on school site before 8:15 am. If there is a necessity for a student to arrive earlier than this time, please contact the relevant Head of Year.

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The school day will revert to pre-Covid timings, as below:

Period	Start	End
P1 + registration	08:30	09:35
P2	09:35	10:35
Break	10:35	10:55
P3	10:55	11:55
P4	11:55	12:55
Lunch	12:55	13:40
Tutor time	13:40	14:00
P5	14:00	15:00
P6 (sixth form only)	15:00	16:00

As you will be aware, the Government has once again asked that schools offer all students the opportunity to be tested twice for Covid-19 in September to minimise the chance of a local school closure and a disrupted start to the school year. Therefore, as last year, we will stagger the return of students to facilitate testing. It is also advised that students continue completing lateral flow testing throughout the summer holidays.

On Monday 6 September we will invite all Year 7 and Year 8 students into school to be tested. These students will then return to school on Tuesday 7 September for class teaching.

Years 11, 12 and 13 will be invited into school for testing on Tuesday 7 September, with their teaching starting on Wednesday 8 September. Years 9 and 10 will be tested on Wednesday 8 September, with their teaching starting on Thursday 9 September. There will be an extended tutor time on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during period 1 to support transition and ensure that students are ready to start learning.

Students' second Covid tests will be scheduled from Friday 10 September; they will be brought out of class for this.

Details of the times of the first tests will be sent home over the summer. It is not compulsory to be tested but, this year, the vast majority of our community were tested in March and this helped keep the number of cases at the school very low. Please could you complete our consent form by following the link below if you are happy for your child to be tested in school in September:

[Consent form for Covid 19 testing September 2021](#)

Please note, if you have more than one child at the school you will need to complete a separate consent form for each child.

During the summer term this year, we have spent a lot of time assessing students and trying to find gaps in their understanding, through a mixture of formal testing and more diagnostic formative assessment techniques within lessons. The academic and pastoral teams have worked together, along with our SEND department, to put together the year groups' left and right sides for 2021-22.

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From September, Year 7 students will be taught in language groups for all their subjects in the first five or six weeks to allow us to assess their knowledge, skills and understanding to set them properly around Christmas. These are mixed attainment groups, but the transition team have worked hard to ensure students are well supported in each group, where possible with peers they know.

Year 8 students have been allotted year group sides (left and right) according to their language choices. There is no stronger or weaker side to the year and many students will have changed sides to ensure this. Students will be taught maths and science in one set, then will be in another group based on their English and language ability for most of their other subjects (the exceptions being PE and technology).

Like Year 8, the Year 9s have been divided into new left and right sides of equal attainment. They will be in a set for maths, science and technology lessons. They will be in a different class for English and this will be the same class for all other subjects except for PE.

We believe that the structure of our curriculum and groupings will allow us to stretch and challenge all students but will also allow us to put support in where it is needed. We review groups regularly to make sure they are as appropriate as possible. We would ask that all students try their new groups for a full two weeks before contacting the school to raise concerns, as the pastoral and academic teams have put a great deal of work into ensuring they are as appropriate as possible.

Year 8 – 13 students will be able to see their timetables on MCAS from 30 August 2021. Please be aware that any timetables appearing before this date are draft and may therefore be subject to further change. Students new to the school and those joining us for Year 7 will receive their timetables on their first teaching day in school during the extended tutor times.

We thank you for your support and engagement through this year and hope to see you in school in person next year. We wish you a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break and will write to you again soon with further details.

Yours faithfully



Ms R Ricketts  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr G Yassin  
Deputy Headteacher