

Educate for life

Year 8 (from September)

LFD Test Day:	Friday 3 rd September. Please click here to book an appointment.
Consent Form:	Link to consent form (only complete if your child did not take a test in March 2021)
First full day return to school:	Monday 6 th September
Year group entrance:	Front main entrance doors open at 08:00.

Dear Parent/carer,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support during the COVID-19 period. We do not underestimate the challenges that families have faced during the last year and a half and we are so proud of our students for demonstrating such maturity – not just in education but their daily lives too.

As the school holiday approaches, I am pleased to provide further details of our reopening plans for September. In line with the new government guidance, the following changes will be in place:

- The current 'bubble' system will be removed, enabling a return to a more flexible curriculum and the use of specialist classrooms.
- Contact tracing: Schools will only be responsible for contact tracing until Sunday 18th July. From Monday 19th July, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.
- Self-isolation for children and young people: From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result, obtained through either a PCR or Lateral Flow Test. As previously, we would request that students do not attend school should they be showing symptoms of COVID-19. We can also confirm that self-isolating students will still have access to robust and comprehensive remote learning opportunities while self-isolating.
- Face coverings: Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport.
- Asymptomatic testing: As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, the government guidance states that all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3-5 days apart, on their return in September. Schools are able to begin testing up to three working days before the start of term and can stagger the return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Please see the full [guidance](#) for further details

There are two actions for parents:

1. **Click on the link at the top of this letter (emailed version) to make an appointment for this test. Please note that to ensure robust safety measures can be put in place, students will only be on site for 15 minutes when they come in to take their test and will then return home, their first full day being Monday 6th September at 8.30am.**
2. **If your child is new to the testing, then the consent form will need to be printed and brought in on the day of the LFD Test).** If your child attended an LFD Test in March of this year, you do not need to complete the consent form, just book an appointment. Testing is voluntary and therefore you can withdraw consent at any time so please notify the academy as appropriate. The privacy notice can be found on our [website](#).

On your child's first full day, they will have an extended period with their form tutor to provide support to help them to re-adjust to the new systems and processes, navigate the site successfully and go through their new school timetable. On arrival at the year 8 front main entrance doors, the pastoral teams will be on hand to direct students to their tutor rooms.

Uniform:

We have been in correspondence with our school uniform supplier, Simmonds who have confirmed they will be opening their in-school uniform shop from 26th July and throughout August for booked appointments. Uniform can also be purchased from their online shop. I would like to remind you of our uniform expectations which can be found on the [uniform page](#) of our website along with other useful information including the shop opening times.

To make an appointment, please access the Cowes Enterprise College area of Simmonds website or click on this [link](#).

Practical PE and Games Lessons:

Students will return to using changing rooms for their practical PE and Games lessons. On these days, students will be expected to arrive in school uniform and change into their PE kit during their lessons.

Canteen:

We are pleased to announce our canteen will be fully open serving a full menu. There will also be 3 additional 'grab and go' food outlets around the academy to reduce queues and any potential congestion in the canteen.

Outbreak management:

Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our pupils and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, this new change again may inevitably create some uncertainty as we all adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for students, staff and our wider community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact info@cowesec.org and we will do all we can to support you.

Finally, we are all extremely proud of the students and how they have coped over the last 18 months in what has been an extraordinarily challenging time. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them all back in September and hope that you all find time to enjoy the summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Harding
Assistant Principal