

Thursday, 22 July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF THE AUTUMN TERM 2021

I hope that this email finds you and your families well. I am sure you are looking forward to enjoying the summer holidays. Further to the Government's announcement on the 19<sup>th</sup> July please find information regarding our arrangements for the return to school for Rooks Heath students from September 2021. Please note this letter contains a number of important links.

Information about what Step 4 means for schools can be found [here](#). The DfE has said that "all secondary pupils 'should' receive **two** on-site lateral flow tests, three to five days apart, on their return in September". Schools can stagger the return of students across the first week to manage this. Please therefore see arrangements for the first few days of the Autumn term:

#### Arrangements for the return to school in September 2021:

Date:	Year Group/s Activity	Key information
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	-	<b>Staff PD Day. No students in school</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	Years 7 Induction day & test no. 1 Years 12 & 13 Invited for test no. 1	
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Years 10 & 11 Invited for test no. 1	<b>Staff PD Day. No students in school</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Year 7 First full day in school Years 8 & 9 Invited for test no. 1 Year 12 Induction day Years 10, 11, 13 Remote learning day	
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	All students in school	

#### Asymptomatic Testing:

Students in who are invited into school to complete their first LFD test and will return home once they have had their test. All students (where consent has been provided) will then receive their second test during a normal school day during the week from 6th September. For all our New Year 7 students and anyone who has not provided consent before, please click this [link](#) to provide consent for your child to have an LFD test and read the [Privacy Notice](#).

If you have changed your mind and would like to withdraw consent for LFD testing, please email the school.

Secondary school pupils, college students and staff attending a summer school or any education setting over the holidays, should continue testing twice-weekly at home. For those wish to test but are not attending any settings, tests will be available to order [online](#) or from most [pharmacies](#).

#### Change to the structure of the school day:

We have reviewed the changes we have introduced across the school, some of which have been imposed due to the pandemic. In an effort to keep the best parts of the new ways of working and to meet the needs of both staff and students, we have made some small changes to our school day. Students in Years 7 – 11 will

need to be in school and on site by 8:40am every day and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form by 9:00am. All students will have a form time in the morning. Every Wednesday, students will continue to have a 5-period day but will have a slightly earlier finish to allow for regular staff professional development. The school days will be structured as follows:

**Every Wednesday:**

Years 7, 8 and 9	8:40am – 2:10pm
Years 10 and 11	8:40am – 2:00pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Form	9:00am – 2:20pm

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

Years 7, 8 and 9	8:40am – 3:05pm
Years 10 and 11	8:40am – 3:15pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Form	9:00am – 3:15pm

Heads of Year will communicate details to students via Microsoft Teams.

**Uniform Expectations**

We have the highest standards of presentation and we feel strongly that **the school uniform must be worn with pride by all our students**. From September, we will not accept students being out of school uniform unless there is an explicit and valid explanation which has been discussed with your child's Head of Year or a Senior Leader. Students are no longer required to wear PE kit to school but should bring their PE kit with them. Students will change into their PE kit when they have PE lessons. We are looking forward to all of our students arriving in full uniform every morning for an 8:40am start.

As always, we would like to support our Rooks Heath families to recycle uniform where possible and, in particular, to exchange blazers for larger sizes where required. We have a number of pre-owned blazers and other items of uniform in good condition. If your child's blazer has become too small and is still in a good condition, we would be very pleased to arrange an exchange. We are also happy to accept other uniform donations. Please ensure items are cleaned before donating. If you have uniform to donate, please deliver it to the school reception.

We understand that there may be some families experiencing financial hardship. We would also be happy to support by providing a blazer (blue or black) or other items of school clothing where we have stock. We cannot accept any money for any items we give you however if you would like to give something in return, we would encourage you to support any fundraising initiatives we promote. If you are interested in sourcing second-hand uniform from the school, please email the school or ask at Reception and someone will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

The basic standards to which we expect all students to adhere have not changed. Please take the time to remind yourself of those standards by reading through all of the detail on the uniform page of our website: [Uniform Expectations](#) .

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to our expectations regarding jewellery and piercings. Students may wear one small set of studs in their ear lobes. **No other form of piercing is permitted** and no other jewellery beyond a wristwatch. Any additional piercings or jewellery will have to be removed before a student can go to lessons. **Hair must be of a natural colour**. We will not engage in conversations about uniform and piercings or jewellery which may take up valuable time in teaching, learning and building a positive ethos and culture in and around the school. I am confident that all our parents and carers will support the school by adhering to the Home/ School agreement and ensuring that your child follows our regulations so we can focus on the important aspects of learning and development.

### **Summer Learning**

The DfE has launched a website for parents, to support children of all age ranges and abilities to catch up on any lost learning from the pandemic. The site features advice and support for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as programmes, resources and activities for children and young people this summer. You can find further information here: [education catch-up for your child](#) homepage.

### **Attendance**

We would like to congratulate every child who has achieved at least 95% attendance throughout this academic school year. We know that the many cases of coronavirus, periods of lockdown and requirements of self-isolation have had an impact on the consistent attendance we experienced before the pandemic. Remember, every day of learning counts and your child's academic success is directly linked to their ability to be in school learning from face-to-face teaching. We want every child to experience the successes we are able to enjoy year on year. We know that being at school every day and on time enhances how well students feel a sense of belonging and part of the school community. We look forward to seeing every student in school and ready to learn from their first day of school.

### **Holiday Travel**

Now that the restrictions have lessened regarding travel to some degree, I am aware that there may be some who plan to take trips abroad. Please keep in mind that you may need to self-isolate when you return from a trip overseas. Any periods of self-isolation should fall within the school holidays.

### **Communication during the holiday period**

For any communication, please email the school at [contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk). Please note that during the holidays the mailbox will be checked however, this will be infrequent and you may experience more of a delay than during the school term. Please keep an eye on our website for any updates.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read and get to the end of this letter. We hope you will enjoy reading about our community in the summer term newsletter. You may be inspired to join in the fundraising activity we have begun, led by a member of our governing body entitled *£5k for 5K*, here is the link [Help Nazreen Fundraise for Rooks Heath School](#).

May I wish you a safe, healthy and happy summer break with your families and we look forward to a successful start in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson  
**Headteacher**