

Wilmslow High School

Headteacher: J.H. Pullé, BA (Hons), Ph.D, PGCE, NPQH

Holly Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1LZ

Tel: 01625 526191 • Fax: 01625 536858 • Email: reception@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk



1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Key Covid Mitigation Measures for Start of Year 2021

I hope that you have all been able to have some time to relax during the summer break. With the new school year about to start this letter seeks to provide you with an outline of key arrangements and how we will be managing the Covid-19 challenge in the current circumstances.

Start of Year Lateral Flow Testing

- The government has decided that all secondary school students should [undertake 2 on-site lateral flow device tests](#), 3 to 5 days apart, on return to school in the autumn term.
- The initial series of these lateral flow device tests will need to be conducted in an Asymptomatic Testing Site similar to those used in March and consequently schools are allowed to stagger the return of students in order to manage this process.
- As was the case last year, students will attend school for their first test then return home (whole process should take no more than 30 minutes).

Details of the testing arrangements are included in the following letters distributed by email to parents and carers on 26th August:

[Year 7 testing arrangements – September 2021](#)

[Year 8 testing arrangements – September 2021](#)

[Year 9 testing arrangements – September 2021](#)

[Year 10 testing arrangements – September 2021](#)

[Year 11 testing arrangements – September 2021](#)

	Thursday 2 nd September	Friday 3 rd September	Sat	Sun	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
Year 7	Attend school for timed test slot	1 st day In-school all day			In-school	In-school	In-school
Year 8		Online aspirations review and summer work tasks			Attend school for timed test slot	1 st day In-school all day	In-school
Year 9		Online aspirations review and summer work tasks			Attend school for timed test slot	1 st day In-school all day	In-school
Year 10		Attend school for timed test slot			1 st day In-school all day	In-school	In-school
Year 11		Attend school for timed test slot			1 st day In-school all day	In-school	In-school
Year 12	Attend school for timed test slot	1 st day In-school all day			In-school	In-school	In-school
Year 13		Attend school for timed test slot			1 st day In-school all day	In-school	In-school

Start of day entry points to the school site

We are continuing to operate a distributed entry system for students.

- Key Stage 3 students (Years 7 – 9) will enter the school site via the Olympic Hall gate
- Key Stage 4 and 5 students (Years 10 – 13) will enter the school site via the High Options gate

We will continue to have handwash and sanitiser facilities at these entry points (and at other points around school) and will expect students to be making good use of these on arrival at school and throughout the day.

Arrival times

- 08:00 – students arriving at school at this time must wait in High Options
- 08:15 – students arriving at this time may make their way to their tutor rooms via the Key Stage entrances referred to above
- Details of tutor rooms can be found by [clicking here](#).
- 08:45 – morning registration starts
- Students arriving after 8:45 will need to enter school through the Main School Entrances

Movement around the school site

Based on our experience over the last year we have further developed our protocols for movement around the school site.

The key point is the increased use of one-way systems.

This will bring two key benefits:

- Ensure that students and staff will not be face to face when moving through indoor areas
- Improve the flow of people during movement times

Mr Mackintosh has prepared a video outlining these arrangements which students can access by [clicking here](#).

The school map has also been updated to indicate the new movement routes and this can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Tutors and subject teachers will be explaining the movement routes to students when they meet them in form and lesson time.

End of the school day

Students will attend an afternoon registration in their tutor rooms at 3.05pm before being dismissed at 3.10pm (unless they are required to stay behind for an end of day referral).

Students will be able to leave the school site via the exit nearest to their form room.

Bubbles and Zones

We are returning to teaching in specialist areas from September 2021 so tutor bases and subject classroom are no longer in separate Year Group Zones.

However, we will continue to operate Year Group Zones for social arrangements at break and lunchtimes. Each Year Group Zone will have its own designated Food Point, Indoor Social Area, Toilets and Outdoor Sports Area.

The Year Group Zones are as follows:

Year	Food point	Indoor social area	Toilets	Sport area
7	Student Services Marquee	Gym	Drama Studio	Small MUGA
8	Astroturf Marquee	Maths 118 / 119 / 120	Maths 1st Floor	Large Astroturf
9	Pavilion Kiosk	Pavilion P4 / P5	Pavilion Ground	Large Astroturf

10	Astroturf Marquee	Social Studies 28 / 31	Geography Ground	Large Astroturf
11	High Options	MFL 207 / 208	Student Services	South Field
12	High Options	Main Hall	High Options	Off site
13	High Options	Main Hall	High Options	Off site
SEN	Pavilion Café			

Details of tutor rooms can be found by [clicking here](#).

Food Service

Student feedback was that the separate Year Group Food Service points were a valued development last year with the reduced numbers at each point and shortened queuing times. Consequently, we will be keeping them this year as part of the Year Group Social Zones model.

Chartwells, our catering providers, are planning to offer a wider range of food in the separate Year Group Food Zones. Furthermore, once we are back into the rhythms and routines of the year, students from all year groups will be able to go to High Options in order to purchase a meal from the full service hot food counters.

Water filling stations are provided throughout the school and students are encouraged to bring bottles so that they can remain well hydrated each and every day.

Contact Tracing and Self-Isolation Guidance

As you will be aware, the guidance on contact tracing and self-isolation has changed significantly during the summer break. I have included the extract from the guidance below, but the key points to note are:

- Students will **no longer** have to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19 – even if that person is in your household.
- If you **are** identified as a close contact, NHS track-and-trace (not school) will tell you what to do.

There are some people who will still need to self-isolate. Who these people are is explained in the extract.

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Covid Mitigation Measures

We will be continuing to maintain a number of important mitigating measures in school to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

1. Do not attend school if ill or experiencing Covid symptoms

The first priority is to ensure that anyone with the main symptoms of COVID-19 do not attend school. They are as follows:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child has any of the above symptoms, please do not send them to school and notify us of their reason for absence.

2. Maintain the cycle of regular lateral flow testing and the reporting of results

Regular testing and the reporting of results will reduce the chances of asymptomatic transmission. The recommendation is that Lateral Flow Tests are conducted at least twice a week, with Sunday and Wednesday evenings being particularly good times to do this.

Please continue to report all results via this link that is also on the school website:
[Wilmslow High School Lateral Flow Device – Test Result Submission Form](#)

If the result is positive please also notify school immediately using the following email account:
CovidStudents@wilmslowhigh.com

3. Good hygiene and regular cleaning

- We will be encouraging all students and staff to continue to wash or sanitise their hands regularly. There are additional handbasins at the school entrances and elsewhere on site. Sanitiser dispensers are provided in all classrooms and at various other points.
- We will continue with enhanced cleaning of the school site throughout the school day.
- There will be wipes available in classrooms if needed and we will require students to wipe down computer keyboards before starting a new lesson using them.

4. Ventilation

The school buildings are well-ventilated and we will be further promoting this with an open windows and doors approach.

5. Face Coverings

- We will continue to permit students and staff to wear face coverings at all times.
- We will expect students and staff to wear face coverings when moving through the building and when queuing for refreshments at the Food Service Points.
- The Local Authority are asking for face coverings to be worn on public transport at all times.
- Consequently, students will need to come to school with a face covering each day.

Uniform

As you may be aware, work has started on our £12 million building programme designed to upgrade our specialist facilities, add classrooms and improve the social areas around school. As this will also put changing room space under pressure for 12 months, we have decided to maintain the following uniform/PE kit arrangements from September onwards (please note that a blazer must be worn with PE kit by all students):

- **Wear PE kit to school on PE lesson days:** all students will travel to and from school in their WHS PE kit (and stay in kit for the duration of the day) on days when they have a practical PE lesson, or when they plan to attend an after-school extra- curricular sports practice
- **Changing space available after lessons if requested:** all students will have the opportunity to change into spare WHS PE kit or their school uniform after their PE lesson, if they wish to, although the majority of students choose to stay in their PE kit for the duration of the day
- **Blazers to be worn every day:** on days when students wear their PE kit, a blazer must also be worn over the PE kit – this is a compulsory item to be worn on every day of the week
- **Only PE kit items detailed on the school website can be worn:** the exception being non-WHS plain black tracksuit trousers. Girls may choose to wear black leggings (which are sold in Printworks).
- **Girls can wear the WHS 'skort', WHS shorts or WHS leggings for PE lessons**
- **Hooded tops (as a coat or a PE item) and sweatshirts are not permitted to be worn to school or for PE lessons:** students who own a WHS branded hooded top or sweatshirt can only wear these items at after-school practices, not around school or in PE lessons.

Further details regarding the purchasing of school uniform and PE kit can be found on the school website: <https://www.wilmslowhigh.com/parents/uniform/>

Extra-curricular activities

Sports Xtra, Performing Arts Xtra and Wider Xtra activities will resume once all students have returned to school. The Xtra programmes will be published in High Notes on Friday and will be updated weekly as activities are added. Please encourage your son / daughter to engage with these programmes.

Impact of Building Programme

The building programme will pause during the first weeks of term. This will enable our school rhythms and routines to become well established without any additional distraction.

There are currently two fully fenced compounds:

1. Main car park – this is the project management and contractor welfare base
2. Area adjacent to Pavilion and Astroturf – this is where the foundation and drainage work has been done over the summer ready for the installation of the temporary additional classrooms

Students will be briefed on the health and safety implications of these and anyone using the school car park will need to pay particular attention to the implications of the compound for visibility.

Summer Catch Up Work

Over the summer we provided additional summer work for students who wanted to do any catching up, and the tables of summer information below were emailed to parents/ carers at the end of last term.

Students can take the opportunity on Friday 3rd September to finish off any catch-up work, and also to ensure that they have completed the Aspirations Questionnaire that can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

- [Year 7 into Year 8 work \(English, maths and science\)](#)
- [Year 8 into Year 9 work \(English, maths and science\)](#)
- [Year 9 into Year 10 work \(English, maths and science\)](#)
- [Year 10 into Year 11 work](#)
- [Year 12 into Year 13 work](#)

Expectations Evenings

Our Expectations Evenings on teaching and assessment for the year ahead will be virtual this year. Further details will be shared through High Notes, and we are looking forward to updating our students, parents and carers with our plans for learning for each year group over the year ahead.

Potential Future Stepping up of Mitigation Measures.

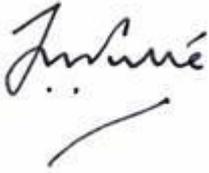
The measures set out in this letter are informed by current national guidance from the Department for Education and advice about the local situation from Cheshire East Public Health.

Schools have been informed that Cheshire East Public Health will determine if the local situation requires any stepping up of mitigation measures.

I hope the above information answers any questions you have about our Covid mitigation measures for the start of this year. If you still have any queries please send them to the CovidStudents@wilmslowhigh.com email account.

I am sure that we are all hoping for a much more normal experience than was the case last year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Pullé', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

J. H. Pullé
Headteacher