

Our Ref: PRC/JYD

23 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The first thing I want to do is once again congratulate our wonderful students on the resilience and determination they have shown this year, during what has been in so many ways a difficult, unusual and at times frustrating year for them. Students have coped admirably with all the changes, remote learning, and new guidelines. Their conduct and compliance with the new rules have been excellent and they have done everything asked of them and more. We are hopeful that the new school year will see a much more settled experience in schools and students will be able to get back to a much more normal way of doing things. Well done to each one of our students, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer.

I also want to share my thanks with you, the parents and carers of our students, for your cooperation and patience throughout the year. As a parent myself I know how frustrating and inconvenient periods of self-isolation can be, not just for students but for the wider family too, especially when this occurs on more than one occasion. Thank you for your understanding this year, and for all you have done to help facilitate the safe running of the school.

Finally, I would ask you please to join with me in thanking all staff at the school for their immense efforts this year. Staff have had to adapt extremely rapidly to new ways of working and have put so much hard work into providing for the education and well-being of students, while having to deal with all the frustrations and concerns of the current situation. I am very grateful for all that they have done. When the going got tough, they certainly pulled together.

Results Days

All students should have received a hard copy of the letter below which can also be found on the website. To ensure a safe environment for all students should wear face coverings when they come in on results day and test the night before. More information can be found in this letter:

<https://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk/filecache/21f/5ec/4261-further-appeals-information.pdf>

Preit Chahal Principal

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Arrangements for September

You should be aware of the following key points:

- We have been asked to arrange on-site testing for all pupils prior to the start of term. If you have already given consent then this will continue to be valid. If you have not previously consented but would now like to, please complete the online consent form on Frog using the link below. For new Year 9 students and external students the consent form is also on the transition/bridging sites or you can use this link.

<https://bit.ly/3sCLvEM>

- As of September, all students will be expected to come in **full school uniform** and will change for PE as per pre-Covid times.
- The twice weekly lateral flow testing is paused for the summer holidays. If any families do still want to keep testing at home then you can order additional test kits here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>
- There is a requirement that all students will test twice weekly at home until the end of September (when the Government will review this). Test kits will be provided by school for this purpose.
- Students will continue to enter school via different entrances at slightly staggered times. The exit time will also be staggered by 5 minutes per year group. Students will be given this information on their first day but they are not too different from the current times.
- The break time and lunch time arrangements will continue to operate in year group zones.
- There will be a continued emphasis on good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Start of term times and dates

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
First test date	Thursday 2nd September	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
Date and time of first day in school	Tuesday 7 th September- 10am	Wednesday 8 th September- 8:40am	Wednesday 8 th September- 8:30am	Thursday 9 th September- 8:40am	Thursday 9 th September- 8:40am

It remains for me to wish you and your families a good summer. Plans may be slightly disrupted from the norm, but I hope you all still manage to find the opportunity to enjoy some time together and to have something of a rest, where possible. We are looking forward to seeing our students back with us in September, ready and refreshed for a new year.

With very best wishes.

Preit Chahal
Principal