



Principal: Helen Corbett

Update following the Government Announcement

9 July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you continue to be well and your children are enjoying the final weeks of their summer term.

I write to provide you with an update on our response to the latest government guidance under 'step 4' of the government roadmap. Following Tuesday's announcement, the government has released operational guidance to schools explaining the actions schools should take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools as the country moves to step 4 of the roadmap from Monday 19th July.

Year group bubbles and zone: The government has said that after the 19th July it is no longer necessary for schools to keep students in bubbles. They also state that schools open after the 19th July may wish to continue with their safety measures until the end of the summer term. Due to the increase in the number of cases both locally and nationally we will continue to use bubbles and our COVID-19 safety measures until the end of the term. This includes the wearing of face masks in the manner in which they are currently being used on site.

Control Measures: The latest guidance explains schools should have measures in place which can control the spread of the virus. At George Spencer Academy we will continue to ensure we cover all preventative measures by: ensuring good hygiene for everyone; maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes; keeping occupied spaces well ventilated; and by following Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Tracing close contacts after Friday 16th July: From step 4, close contacts will no longer be identified by the school, instead this will be carried out via NHS Test and Trace. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts.

Pupil well-being and support: We continue to offer universal support through our Form Time Learning sessions, Learning Managers and year group leadership teams, as well as bespoke support for individuals through our Well-Being Team for all students affected by COVID-19. Please contact us if you would like us to explore additional support for your child in addition to our universal offer.

Mass on-site testing in September and staggered start to autumn term: At the time of writing, we are awaiting further guidance on the steps we need to take as a school to effectively put this in place. We will contact you again by 23rd July with the details and specific information for each year group testing programme.

Upcoming communications:

Week beginning Monday 12th July: You will receive a letter from myself detailing the end of term arrangements and key information for the start of next term.

Week beginning Monday 19th July: You will receive a letter and outline from Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal, detailing our approach to the on-site mass testing in September and the day and time your child should attend site for their 2 lateral flow tests at the start of the autumn term.

I wish you all a pleasant and safe weekend and will be in touch soon.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Corbett
Principal