



31 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back over the next week and we thank you for your patience and support as we prepare for a staggered return to allow for the on-site mass testing of the students.

Autumn Term Phased Return and Mass Testing for COVID-19:

In July we shared details of the mass testing programme at George Spencer, including time slots for each student's on-site test and the dates they will return to school. This information is also available on our school website, including pictures and a map of our testing centre to support students locating the centre and ease any worries for our Year 7 cohort who are new to this. Please note the testing centre is not in the same location as the previous academic year. If you have any queries please contact Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal, via the school reception.

Following the students' first lateral flow test the year groups will return to school as follows:

Thursday 2nd September: Year 7 first day back.

Friday 3rd September: Year 11 and Year 12 first day back.

Monday 6th September: Year 10 and Year 13 first day back.

Tuesday 7th September: Year 9 first day back.

Wednesday 8th September: Year 8 first day back.

Please note **Tuesday 31st August** and **Wednesday 1st September** remain staff INSET days.

Please find a link to student information regarding their first day back, including the classroom they should go to at the start of their first day back - <http://www.george-spencer.com/news/first-day-back-information/> Students will spend the first few hours of their first day receiving their planners and familiarising themselves with their school timetable for the academic year. Each year group will attend an assembly which will be specific to their cohort and include information about their learning journey this year plus up to date information on our COVID-19 safety measures.

Building on our strong partnership with families:

Prize Giving: We are very excited that under the current government guidance we are able to open up the school to parents/carers for events that had previously been unable to take place. This includes our prestigious Prize Giving event in the Autumn term where we reflect, recognise and celebrate students who demonstrated excellence last year. Miss Jenkinson, our Vice Principal of Achievement, is already planning for a fantastic celebratory evening later this term and will be communicating more details as the term progresses.

Year 9 Guided Pathways: This is a very important year for our Year 9 students as they start to think about the next stage of their education and make informed decisions over qualifications they will study. Parents and carers of Year 9 students will receive details from Mr Allen, our Assistant Principal who oversees this process, and we look forward to welcoming you all into school to meet our teachers and discuss your child's pathway.

Information Evenings: We are introducing Information Evenings this year to the rest of our year groups so, like Year 9, there are opportunities created to strengthen our partnership and for you to talk to us about your child's education as well as gain further insight on their curriculum for the academic year so you feel fully informed and can support at home.

The dates for the Information Evenings are as follows:

Year 7: Wednesday 8th September at 5:30pm

Year 8: Wednesday 8th September at 7:00pm

Year 10: Thursday 9th September at 5:30pm

Year 11: Thursday 9th September at 7:00pm

Year 12: Thursday 16th September at 5:30pm

Year 13: Thursday 16th September at 7:00pm

These events are for parents/carers only and students should not attend. Due to the current climate we kindly ask that only one parent/carer for each family attends the evening to support the school in being able to maintain social distancing.

All Information Evenings will take place in our Sports Hall on upper site. We ask that you please park on lower site as there is no parking on upper site and our local residents have requested no parking outside their houses.

We will be operating a one way system with hand gel available on entry and exit to the Sports Hall. We request that attendees wear face masks during the presentation to support in keeping our school community safe and well.

We look forward to welcoming you back to George Spencer Academy as we continue to build your child's future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H Corbett', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mrs H Corbett
Principal