



23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

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Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family had a restful summer. I am now able to write to you now to share final information regarding the start of term. We are delighted that in just a few days, all things being well, staff and students will be able to revert back to a more recognisable school rhythm.

As you will probably be aware CV-19 Operational Guidance for schools was updated in July and will come into effect from the start of next term. Please read below carefully as it outlines the major changes and how it affects us at The Dean Academy:

### **From September:**

- Students and staff who develop symptoms or who test positive should remain at home. Any child who tests positive on a LFT device is to take a confirmatory PCR test. This aspect of the guidance is unchanged.
- It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent bubbles
- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff, visitors but it is advised on school transport. However, some students and staff may feel more comfortable wearing face coverings in indoor communal areas and in classrooms that is completely fine.
- If a child is identified as a close contact (by NHS track and Test) they will no longer be required to self-isolate for a mandatory 10-day period. Instead, they will now be strongly advised to take a precautionary PCR test.
- As students will be mixing over the summer break a major defence against the transmission of the virus is regular asymptomatic testing. All students will take two lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return within the school testing site. After the initial two tests in school, students and staff will revert to testing at home twice weekly. More detail about testing arrangements is below.
- The safety measures which we established at the from September 2020 which include enhanced cleaning, good ventilation and regular hand sanitizing will remain in place.

### **Lateral Flow Testing:**

- All secondary school students will take three COVID-19 tests over two weeks as they return to the classroom from the 2<sup>nd</sup> September within the testing facilities at school.
- Students are able to attend face to face lessons as normal after they have received their first negative test result.
- To enable all students to take this first test safely, and for us to get students back into our classrooms as safely and swiftly as possible, it is necessary for us to implement a **staggered start** over the first three days of the Autumn term.



- Please see details below for your child's first days. Due to the logistical challenges presented by the need to test the entire school population please can we ask you to ensure your child arrives promptly for their test and that they report to the main entrance.

<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	Staff INSET day (all students at home)									
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	Y7 and 11 ONLY arrive for testing and then return to lessons. Arrive at the following time for testing:									
	0845 Any y7/11 student who travels by bus	0900 7AH	0915 7SC	0930 7KBW	0945 7TF	1000 11FP	1015 11JB	1030 11NL	1045 11PG	
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Y7 and 11 arrive as normal at 0845 and straight to lessons. Y9 and 10 arrive for testing and then return to lessons. Arrive at the following time for testing according to tutor group:									
	0845 Any Y9/10 who travels by bus	0900 9PM	0915 9KC	0930 9FE	0945 9RWI	1000 10AW	1015 10DC	1030 10KJW	1045 10MW	
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Y7, 9, 10 and 11 arrive as normal at 0845 and straight to lessons. Y8 arrive for testing and then return to lessons. Arrive at the following time for testing according to tutor group:									
	0845 Any Y8 student who travels by bus	0900 8JP	0920 8AM				0940 8DRW			

- Finally, we know there will be some anxiety about testing itself. The test, which is carried out by students themselves, is quick and easy to administer and gives results rapidly. We have produced a short video which we would encourage you to watch with your child. We hope that seeing what is involved in this process before coming in to school will help to ease any nerves. [The link to this video is here.](#)





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Please note that Lateral flow testing is voluntary, and we require consent. Part of the reason we were able to avoid disruption for large parts of last year was due to the fact that consent had been given for the overwhelming majority of our young people. If you have not yet done so please indicate consent [using this form](#). If you've previously given consent, you do not need to do it again. However, if you have given consent but now wish to withdraw that can be done using this form.

### **Standards**

Please note that students will be expected to return to school in full uniform. It is important that we set, and hold ourselves to, high standards when school re-opens despite the significant challenges we have faced due to Covid-19. If you are unsure of the expectations around uniform, please see our website (<https://thedeanacademy.org/uniform/>) which also details where uniform can be purchased. Should you have any difficulty in ensuring your child has access to full uniform please contact us as we can help. Please do simply send your child in without proper uniform. On arrival, if any child does not have full uniform, we will make available to them shoes/a blazer until they can be purchased.

Should you have any questions or queries regarding our re-opening plans specific to your child please do not hesitate to get in contact via [info@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:info@thedeanacademy.org).

We look forward to working with you all over the course of the year and we are incredibly optimistic about everything we can achieve working in partnership.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Brand**  
Headteacher

RJB/TW – start of term arr-230821



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