



The Bridge Short Stay School
Appleton Drive | Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire | CH65 7EP
Tel: 0151 3376873

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families have had plenty of opportunity to relax and enjoy the summer holidays. We're looking forward to welcoming students back over the next week. In August we were able to celebrate some fantastic GCSE results with the last group of Year 11s who are now making positive new starts in College, Apprenticeships and workplaces; we're now focussed on supporting our current students towards those same end goals.

As you know, many of the restrictions related to COVID have now been lifted in public life and so I wanted to confirm the arrangements for the start of term in light of this.

Due to the likelihood that young people have mixed freely over the summer we have been asked to complete two lateral flow tests with all students on their return to school. To allow for this we are operating a staggered start and you should have received individual start dates for your child. If you're unsure when they are due in, please get in touch as it is essential to the smooth running of this testing that students do only return on their planned date.

Following the two tests in school students will receive home testing kits and we ask you to support them in completing those twice weekly, on a Sunday and Wednesday night. Continuing testing in this way will help to ensure everyone within school is best protected from any possible spread of COVID. If your child has had a positive test previously they shouldn't complete these tests for 90days from their initial positive result.

Anyone who tests positive will be required to self-isolate and seek a confirmatory PCR test.

If your child demonstrates symptoms of COVID: a new continuous cough, a fever or a loss/change in taste or smell they should not attend school and should instead seek a PCR test. If that test is negative they can return to school as long as they feel well enough to do so, in the event of a positive test they should self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Isolation requirements have however changed for those who are close contacts of someone who has tested positive. NHS track and trace will take responsibility for contacting anyone they believe is a close contact and advise them to seek a PCR test; contacts who are under 18 or who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to isolate unless they display symptoms or test positive themselves.



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As track and trace will now take responsibility for this, we will no longer be able to confirm whether or not there has been any positive cases in school. We will however continue to closely monitor the situation within school and liaise with the local Public Health team. Should we see a rise in cases in school or locally, it may be necessary to reintroduce measures such as the wearing of face coverings in school or more regular testing. We will communicate those directly to you if and when needed.

The Government have stated that retaining as many young people as possible in education is a priority for them and we are unlikely to see further mass school closures. Regular school attendance is therefore a priority to ensure all students are able to come out of this pandemic with the knowledge, skills and qualifications to be successful. I must remind you that regular school attendance is a legal responsibility and failure to ensure this can result in the issue of fixed penalty notices or prosecution by the local authority. We are however conscious that following previous restrictions there may be an increase in levels of illness this winter; in all cases please contact school as soon as possible to discuss any reasons for absence.

I'm hopeful that, while we still need to be cautious, this year will give us the opportunity to move on from COVID dominating all that we do. All of the staff team remain completely committed to working with your child to help them to become the best possible versions of themselves. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

Best Wishes

Mr A Stewart

Headteacher