



18th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a restful break over the holidays and are looking forward to the year ahead. You will be aware that the government set out its plans to move to Step 4 of the roadmap. This marks a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic which moves from stringent restrictions to advice on how we must protect ourselves and each other from risk of COVID-19. This means that schools are now able to remove many of the protective measures we previously had in place and offer our pupils more opportunities to engage in a wider range of school activities. However, before we do this we must ensure that pupils return to school safely.

As pupils will potentially have mixed with lots of other people during the summer holidays, it has been advised that **all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow tests**, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return to school. You will remember that we have done this very successfully back in March when we had to offer pupils 3 on-site lateral flow tests. We have previously asked parents whether they give consent, or not, for these tests to be administered by staff in our test centre and we will continue to fulfil your request. If you did not give consent previously but wish to do so now please let us know. I will send a separate letter shortly to Year 7 parents asking them for this information.

To fulfil the obligation of the 2 on-site tests we must begin testing 3 days before the start of term. This is necessary to ensure that we have offered lateral flow tests to all our pupils.

Now that we have carefully considered the guidance documents, I am able to share with you our proposed planning for the return of pupils and staff, and the plans for testing.

Plans for testing

These tests are intended to detect anyone who may have the virus but not show any symptoms, and they will be a key control measure helping us to minimise transmission of the virus.





The following timetable has been planned for student testing:

Year 11	1st TEST	Return to school:	2nd TEST
	Monday 23 August 1pm – 3.15pm	Thursday 26 August	Thursday 26 August 10.15am – 12.30pm
Year 7	1st TEST	Return to school:	2nd TEST
	Tuesday 24 August 1pm – 3pm	Thursday 26 August	Thursday 26 August 12.30pm – 3.15pm
Year 10	1st TEST	Return to school:	2nd TEST
	Friday 27 August 8.30am – 10.15am	Tuesday 31 August	Tuesday 31 August 10.15 – 12.30pm
Year 9	1st TEST	Return to school:	2nd TEST
	Friday 27 August 10.30am – 1.30pm	Tuesday 31 August	Tuesday 31 August 12.30pm – 3.15pm
Year 8	1st TEST	Return to school:	2nd TEST
	Friday 27 August 2pm – 3.30pm	Tuesday 31 August	Wednesday 1 st September 12.30pm – 3.15pm

You will be sent a text inviting your child(ren) to attend a slot. Please support us by ensuring that your child attends as promptly as possible.

Following the initial 2 tests in school, pupils will be required to use the home testing kits to administer tests twice a week until the end of September.

The government also set out further guidance for schools which we welcome strongly. This new guidance allows us to plan provision more effectively in school which in turn will give your child(ren) a better educational experience. The key changes are outlined below:

Mixing and ‘bubbles’

Pupils and staff are no longer required to stay in groups (‘bubbles’). This means that bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision or in schools from the autumn term.

Assemblies can also resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.



Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

We have an outbreak management plan outlining how we will operate if there was an outbreak in our school. We will share this with you in the event of an outbreak.

We have reviewed our risk assessments in light of the new guidance and the key actions we have taken are:

- We have ensured that all hand sanitisers remain functioning and have been refilled to ensure we can re-establish **good routines for hand hygiene**.
- We have worked with our cleaning contractor, Ridgecrest to ensure that our **enhanced cleaning** of the whole school will continue in the Autumn term.
- We have reviewed our map of the site to check that we have provided adequate guidance for staff so that they know how to ensure **good ventilation** of every room in the school.

Finally

I know many of you are looking forward to returning to this normality and we are certainly looking forward to seeing our school working as normal.



Tudor Grange Samworth Academy



A Church of England School

In the meantime, thank you so much for all you have done to ensure that your child has remained engaged with home testing, we feel very proud of the partnership we maintained last year with our parents and of the way pupils have responded to the challenges they faced.

Your feedback on the details I have shared in this letter is important to us, please provide any comments by emailing office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk and we will collate your feedback and adjust our planning where we feel this is necessary.

Most of all, please talk to us if you have unanswered questions or concerns and we will prioritise answering these queries, your first port of call is always your child's form tutor.

Thank you so much for your continued positive messages of thanks and support, we have very much cherished this.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Bannon

Associate Principal