

22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT: COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION CHANGES AS OF SEPT 2021

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

As Covid-19 restrictions are easing, I want to share with you the new plans in place at Goodwin Academy to ensure a smooth transition back into school life after the 6-week holiday.

RETURN TO OUR NORMAL

My team and I have been overwhelmed by the patience and support from our pupils, parents and carers over these past 18 months. We know and understand the varying difficulties our school community has endured in the face of this pandemic.

On this note, I am cautiously happy to say that, in September we are set to return our school environment back to the 'normal' we knew before March 2020.

This includes many changes to the average school day such as:

Face coverings - Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Though please note face coverings are recommended on public transport.

Track & Trace - After over a year of implementing and deferring to our Track & Trace policy, under the testing requirements as set out by the Department for Education (DfE), we will no longer be using this. All positive cases must be reported to the NHS via their app in the first instance, and then to the Goodwin Academy office in the second instance.

Self-isolation - Close contacts of a positive case no longer need to self-isolate, they can continue to come to school but may be recommended to take a PCR test by NHS Test & Trace.

In addition our timetable will return to 5 x 1hr periods. We will continue to use our one way systems to support calm corridors and classrooms will no longer need to be in forward facing rows. Practical lessons in PE, DT, Art, Drama and Science will be able to operate as normal.

Students will be allowed on the school site from 8.00am and can go to the Dining Hall where they can purchase breakfast if they wish.

We hope to get our extra-curricular activities back up and running as soon as possible.

However, to control a Covid-19 free environment and to help reduce the spread we will continue to:

1. Encourage and ensure good hand hygiene across our school community.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.

IN CASE OF SYMPTOMS/POSITIVE RESULT

Where Covid-19 is of course still present, and testing is still happening, you should not send your child to school if they display any of the original symptoms or if they test positive.

READ MORE: [DfE guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19](#)

CONTINUED LATERAL FLOW TESTING (LFT)

All students will be able to access two LFTs on site before returning to class next year. Testing will be available from **Tuesday 31st August**. If you would like your child to take an LFT please complete the registration form below and give your consent. If you have already provided consent in March, please still complete the form to let us know your child will be attending for a test. If you do not complete this form we will be unable to test your child.

Alternatively, if you would prefer your child to use a home test kit prior to their return to school in September, please let the school know and we can provide additional test kits if needed.

Date	Year Groups
Tues 31 st August	Year 7, 8, 11
Weds 1 st September	Year 9, 10, Sixth Form
Fri 3 rd September	Year 7, 8, 11
Mon 6 th September	Year 9, 10, Sixth Form

CONSENT

While testing is voluntary, it is important that as many students as possible take part in the Covid-testing programme, either on site or at home, to minimise the chances of an outbreak in our school community.

My child is a new student in Y7 or Y12 do I need to fill in a consent form?

Yes, all new students joining us at Goodwin Academy need to have consent from their parent/carer via the form below before an LFT can be administered on school site. Please click the following link to complete a consent/registration form. [Goodwin Academy Consent Form.](#)

My child is a returning student in Y8-Y11 or Y13 and I already provided consent last term, do I still need to fill in a consent form?

Yes, although we can use the consent previously provided we do need you to register to confirm if your child will attend the school for an LFT. This will ensure we are staffing the testing sites accordingly. If you do not confirm a test for your child we will not allocate a test time, and will assume you are conducting your test with a home test kit or not consenting to a test. Please click the following link to complete a consent/registration form. [Goodwin Academy Consent Form.](#)

My child is a returning student in Y8-Y11 or Y13, I didn't consent last term but would like to now, what do I do?

Please click the following link to complete a consent/registration form. [Goodwin Academy Consent Form.](#)

I do not consent and would prefer my child to do the LFT at home before school, what do I need to do?

Of course, testing on site is voluntary, if you would prefer to use home-testing kits these are available from the school, please email the office on office@goodwinacademy.org.uk. These can be collected from school from week beginning Tuesday 31st August. **Please note lateral flow test kits can also be collected from local pharmacies.**

During September students are expected to test twice weekly using LFTs and report results through the Covid-19 test site. Further guidance is due from the Government on expectations after September and will be sent out when available.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING FOR A TEST AND PROVIDING CONSENT IS FRIDAY 30TH JULY



REMOTE LEARNING

Where self-isolation is still a reality in the event of a positive test or displaying symptoms, our comprehensive remote learning will still be available. Students who are having to isolate will be able to join lessons remotely via Teams and work will be available on Teams from all staff.

Please note that these are all subject to change and should we experience a local outbreak, risk assessments and further communications will be shared.

Thank you again for your ongoing support when it comes to all things Covid-19 related – I, my team and our school community are sincerely grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith
Principal