



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

25th August 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your families have had a good summer, and that your son/daughter is rested and ready for the new academic year.

Fitzharrys has been busy over the summer with a summer school for our new year 7 students, work commencing on our new fire alarm system and new sports hall roof, refurbishment of our sixth form centre amongst other site works, and in recent days the use of the school as a COVID-19 vaccination centre for 16-17 years olds in Abingdon.

Work continues in school in the coming days, including preparations in our testing centre in readiness for in school Lateral Flow Testing for all students. Our testing centre ran superbly in the spring and will again be staffed by a mixture of school employees, volunteers, and temporary staff. We anticipate another smooth process to ensure that students can start the term in the best possible way.

For the testing process to work effectively we are going to stagger the return of students by year group, so that all students have one test before returning to school. Their second in school test will be done within 5 school days of the first test, ensuring that all students have been tested twice before the end of the first full week of school. The schedule for the testing and return of students is outlined below.

Year Group	Date of test 1 (before returning to school)	First day back in school	Date of test 2 (taking place during the school day)
7	Thursday 2 nd September	Friday 3 rd September	Tuesday 7 th September
8	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
9	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September
10	Thursday 2 nd September	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September
11	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
JMF6	Self-testing at home	Friday 3 rd September	Self-testing at home

For the first test all students will have an allotted time when they need to be in school. This will be sent to you via email on Wednesday 1st September. Alongside a timeslot for the testing, there will be clear instructions on where students need to go and the process they will need to follow. For most students, the process will be very familiar, however please do read the instructions carefully and let us know if there are any queries.



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The testing forms part of our approach to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. I have attached a copy of our updated risk assessment for your information. This reflects the changes in the government guidance, with the removal of both bubbles and the use of masks in school, alongside the approaches of hand sanitising points in key areas, ventilation for all classrooms and offices, and maintaining a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to sneezing and coughing. This risk assessment, and the school's approach to COVID-19 is of course subject to change, depending on the situation with the pandemic. In preparation for this we have created an outbreak management plan. This allows us to be prepared and ready to put in place further measures to keep our community safe, such as bubbles and face coverings, should the need arise.

We of course hope that such measures will not be required and look forward to welcoming your child back into school. Please do remember the changes to our school day and our policy on mobile phones. We want all our students to have a positive start to a successful year in school.

Over the summer we were able to celebrate the successes of our GCSE and A level students, who will now be heading off to the next stages of their education. We are excited to be giving our outgoing year 11 students the send off they deserve with their Prom being held in school on Friday 10th September. This will be a great way for us to start the new academic year, and we look forward to more opportunities and cause for celebration in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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