



19th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

You will undoubtedly be aware of the Prime Minister's recent announcement which outlines his intention to move to 'Step 4' and lift all restrictions from today, Monday 19th July 2021. This date does not coincide with the end of term for West Sussex maintained schools. In view of this, I am writing to inform you of the advice we have been given by the Director of Education for West Sussex County Council. This is summarised below:

The move to step four of the roadmap out of lockdown will place a greater emphasis on personal responsibility as we continue to protect each other, reduce the risks of the virus, and learn to live with Covid-19 for the longer term. It is understandable that many people will welcome a return to life without restrictions, while for some the prospect will be a source of concern and anxiety.

Since the start of the academic year, your school has had in place a range of measures designed to protect against the spread of Covid-19, including extra cleaning and grouping students into 'bubbles' etc. While many pupils may have finished the school year before 19 July, the end of term date in West Sussex is Friday, 23 July and some schools will therefore still be open until this date. For these five remaining days of term, West Sussex County Council is recommending to schools that they keep in place their Covid-19 health protection measures. We are recommending that schools continue to contact trace until the end of term, using the usual definitions of a close contact. By keeping the measures in place until the end of term we hope that the impact on families will be kept to a minimum. We ask that parents and carers continue to support the school in taking whatever measures they feel are needed to manage and reduce the risks to all. Infection rates in West Sussex remain lower than in many parts of the country, though they have been steadily rising in line with national trends. Our message to communities across West Sussex is that Covid-19 hasn't gone away, that the pandemic is not yet over and that there are measures we can all continue to take to keep each other safe.

You can find more information about the pandemic in West Sussex, including local case data, on our [website](#).

Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education and Skills – Children, Young People and Learning

In view of the above, it is very much my intention to ask staff and students to follow our current safety procedures. Doing so ensures the very best possible chance of all stakeholders being able to start the summer holiday period without the need for isolation or recovery from COVID-19; which was contracted as a result of us ending our current procedures slightly early. Government guidance does support Headteachers in taking this stance where it is felt necessary.

Lateral Flow Testing

It is still really important that we continue to carry out Lateral Flow tests to try to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID before they can be transmitted to the wider community. Many thanks to all of our families for continuing to complete the Lateral Flow Tests with your children at home. I appreciate that it can seem like an extra thing to worry about but it really could help to keep everyone safe and in school

I would also like to take this early opportunity to inform you of our current 'phased' return to school plans in September as mentioned in the recent guidance. (Please note that these are provisional plans in order to help you plan ahead. They may be subject to change by circumstances outside of our control.)

The phased return plan is as follows:

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing arrangements and full return of students:

Year Group	LFD testing	Year group returns on
Year 7	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September
Year 11 and Year 10	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
Year 9 and Year 8	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September

PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THE SIDE OF THE LEISURE CENTRE AND THEN RETURN HOME AFTER LFD TESTING.

Students do not need to be in school uniform for the Lateral Flow Device testing outlined above. All students returning to school w/c 6th September should be in full school uniform.

Order for LFD testing on each assigned day:

9.00am – 10.00am	Blue and Gold colour families
10.00am – 11.00am	Green and Orange colour families
11.20am – 12.20pm	Pink and Purple colour families
12.20pm – 1.20pm	Red and Silver colour families
2.00pm – 3.00pm	White and Yellow colour families

Lateral Flow Device testing explained – please [click this link](#) to view the video on our website demonstrating how the Lateral Flow Device test is conducted.

We are aware that some families, including those joining us in September, have yet to complete the online consent form. Before we can test your daughter, we need your consent and I would be grateful if you could complete the consent form [in this link](#) if you have not already done so.

Timings for the school day. (Please note that there will be no continuation of the current staggered finish times.)

8.40am – 9.00am	AM Registration
9.00am – 10.00am	Lesson 1
10.00am – 11.00am	Lesson 2
11.00am – 11.20am	Break
11.20am – 12.20pm	Lesson 3
12.20pm – 1.20pm	Lesson 4
1.20pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 2.20pm	PM Registration and DEAR time
2.20pm – 3.20pm	Lesson 5

A message from the medical room

Please can you ensure any medication your daughter requires when she is in school is brought in with her and given to the medical room on her first day back. Any medication brought in must be in its original container with the pharmacy label attached and patient information leaflet inside. Inhalers may be kept on pupils however if you would like a spare one kept in the medical room then please ensure this is brought in too.

We have previously had a number of students who attend the medical room complaining of feeling sick, dizzy and/or suffering from a headache within the first hour of being in school which then transpires they have not eaten a good enough breakfast. In view of this please can we ask you to ensure your daughter has had something to eat prior to coming to school as the first break is not until 11.00am.

And finally!

This academic term ends for students at 12.30pm on Friday 23rd July and I would like to wish you and your family the very best of health and happiness over the summer holidays. Your support throughout this most difficult year has been truly appreciated by all of our staff. Your children have been a pleasure to work with and we are really looking forward to re-opening, in September, with optimism and enthusiasm for a year without the restrictions we have all observed so well.

Thank you so much!

Yours faithfully



Chris Keating
Headteacher
Davison CE High School for Girls