

1 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of term letter

I am writing to you at the end of yet another eventful term. I would like to start by saying thank you to you all for your support for our return to school, lateral flow device testing and working with us when it has been necessary for students to isolate. The students have been brilliant in their return to school and it has been a pleasure to have the building full of life again.

There is a wide range of good news about national falling infection rates and some restrictions are starting to ease. Yet, we are still a long way from returning fully to a normal way of working and there may well yet be further disruptions to come. We will continue to communicate any changes and this letter is a summary of a few points:

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests

Thank you to all the students that are regularly conducting LFD tests at home. They have proved useful in identifying asymptomatic cases and have helped prevent the spread of Covid-19 in school. Students are asked to continue LFD testing at home on Wednesday and Sunday evenings through the Easter break and all have been provided with a sufficient number of kits for this purpose. All results should be registered with NHS Test and Trace and the school informed of all positive results at: contacttracing@stocksbridgehigh.co.uk. If we are informed of a positive test up to Tuesday 6 April 2021 we will trace any close contacts within school and inform families affected.

It is essential that all consenting students conduct an LFD test on Sunday 18 April 2021 prior to returning on Monday 19 April 2021. If your child has not received LFD kits but would like to participate then please contact the school.

School Operation after Easter

After the Easter break year groups will continue to be taught in zones and we will keep the same split timings. In the future, we will look to move some of the zones around so that students can access specialist facilities such as science laboratories. At this moment in time, there has been no indication as to when we can resume a more normal way of operating school and it is not planned to be until the next academic year.

Face Coverings in School

At the time of writing there has not been any update from the government on the wearing of face coverings in schools. We are expecting the policy to be reviewed during the Easter break and any change may well be announced while the school is closed. Face coverings will still be expected in all communal areas and corridors at least and may well continue to be required in classrooms. We will update you when we have details from the government. Thank you again for your support with this and for ensuring that students bring an appropriate face covering to school.



Uniform

As a school, we have made uniform allowances for students since our return, as we know there have been difficulties with shops being closed or out of stock. However, after Easter we will resume our normally high standards and expect that students return to us in full school uniform. Details regarding uniform, including details around hair, makeup and jewellery can be found on the school website [here](#). For the foreseeable future, students will continue to wear their PE kit for the days PE is on their timetable, but this must be the Stocksbridge High School kit.

Buses

It has been brought to our attention that students are travelling on any bus/coach to school in a morning. Please remind your child of the bus allocation which was introduced in October and remains in place:

YELLOW PASS - Year 11 students, Year 7 students and male students from Year 8 will catch the Heatons single decker coach.

GREEN PASS - Year 9 students, Year 10 students and female students from Year 8 will catch the Stagecoach double decker bus.

Y11 Assessments

OFQUAL and the examination boards are releasing their guidance for how grades will be assessed this year. All Y11 students and their families have received, and will receive, information on what we will be using to generate grades this year. Y11 families will be aware that students have assessments starting on 26 April 2021 which will be conducted in strict examination conditions. These, will be a crucial, but not exclusive, piece of evidence in generating grades this year and thank you for your support in emphasising their importance with your children.

I want to assure all Y11 students and families that we have established robust internal and cross-trust systems of moderation and quality assurance that will make the grades we award fair and evidence-based. These systems will be subject to scrutiny by examination boards in advance of us submitting grades in June. There will be a range of further activity in lessons to further support the generation of grades all the way up to 28 May 2021 so attendance and engagement remain vital. After that, there will be opportunities for individuals or small groups to provide more evidence.

At no point will we be able to share with students or families what grades are being submitted to the boards; these must come from the examination boards on results day, 12 August 2021.

Our new cohort from September 2021

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Y7 students in September. Many of them will be siblings of children already attending Stocksbridge High School and others will be new to our school community. We are planning a series of transition events week commencing 28 June 2021 for all the Y6 students to attend lessons, familiarise themselves with the school and meet their teachers and friends. Please be assured that all activity will be compliant with the Covid guidance applicable in June.

If you have friends with children in Y6 who are interested in enrolling at Stocksbridge High School from September then we do have limited availability. It's not too late to transfer so please do get in touch.

#ThisIsJustTheStart





Thank you again for your brilliant support through the last year. There have been many challenges which have been easier to overcome thanks to the strong partnership we are building with families and our community. I hope that this will continue to thrive long after the pandemic is over. In the meantime, my best wishes for a lovely Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Mr. A. Ireland
Headteacher

