



14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the end of this academic year, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with some end of term information and also some return to school information in readiness for September.

However, before I lead into this, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding this year in relation to how Garibaldi, along with others in the education sector have had to respond to the COVID pandemic. I know at times, it has been frustrating when we have had to undertake contact tracing, or had to extend periods of time out of school. I wholeheartedly share your frustrations. I am however hopeful, that a return to a near normal provision in September, is on the horizon.

This academic year will conclude at a slightly earlier time of 1pm on Friday 16th July. Students, on this day are permitted to attend for free, in non-school uniform.

We sadly say goodbye to a number of colleagues who each leave us to venture into pastures new.

Mrs Bradley Science Technician
Mr Brown Teacher of History
Miss Hill Student and Family engagement officer
Miss Leslie Teacher of Science.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing these colleagues, the very best wishes for the future.

Joining us in September are:

Dr Inglis Director of Science – Associate School Leader
Miss Griffin Teacher of English
Mr Harrison Teacher of Maths
Mr Henson Site Team
Mrs Tunbridge Data and Exams Administrator

At the point of writing this letter, the Government has published plans for schools in relation to the relaxation of COVID processes and expectations for our return in September. The information provided below is current and may be subject to change. It is my intention to write to you again to confirm arrangements towards the end of August, in readiness for the new academic year. With all of the following aspects, should there be a spike in cases in the local area, regional health protection teams may reintroduce measures to reduce cases.

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Executive Head Teacher: **Ryan Hawley** BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH | Head of School: **James Aldred** BA, QTS, NPQH

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Face Masks

It is no longer a requirement for staff or students to wear face masks. However, if staff or students choose to wear face masks, this will be accommodated. The wearing of face masks will no longer be enforced and is now down to personal choice.

Bubbles and Social Distancing

The use of bubble systems will no longer be necessary. Therefore, there will be no staggered starts to the school day, assemblies can resume and spaces can be shared. Students can mix at breaks and lunches and students will not need to adhere to social distancing.

Personal Hygiene

We will maintain the use of hand sanitisers in classrooms and students should sanitise on entry to all classrooms. Classrooms will be cleaned at regular intervals. Students and staff should continue to adhere to the "catch it, kill it, bin it" process.

Asymptomatic Testing

At the start of the academic year, students will be asked to undertake two lateral flow tests, 3-5 days apart, in school. These tests are conducted by students themselves, similar to how they were undertaken previously. If you have already given your consent at Garibaldi in the last twelve months, there is no need for you to re-consent. For those who have not provided consent or are new to the school, please can you follow the link to do so https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/forms/testing_consent.php

When students have completed two flow tests in school, they will be provided with kits to take home to complete two tests a week (Wednesday and Sunday) until the end of September, where the Government will review whether this continues or not.

Positive Cases

If a student tests positive, at home or school, they should book and undertake a PCR test, at a testing centre. Pleasingly, as it currently stands, we will no longer have to send students home to isolate. NHS Test and Trace will work with positive cases, identifying close contacts and provide further advice and guidance on next steps. This will allow schools to focus on delivering a high-quality education with minimal disruption to service, which I am delighted at!

Attendance

It is expected that all students return to school at the start of the academic year. Unless isolating or testing positive, students should make every effort to be in school and parents should ensure students attend.

Pre-Return Testing Dates

In order to effectively manage our Asymptomatic Testing Centre and to ensure all tests are completed accurately, we will slightly stagger the return of students to school. Some testing will take place during the INSET days, so students should come in to be tested and then go home again. Students will be able to use mobile phones to help with the registration process but phones should not be seen at any other time.

Students do not need to make an appointment but should turn up during the allotted times below:

Thursday 2nd September 9:00-11:00am (INSET Day)

Students in Year 11, 12 and 13

Thursday 2nd September 11:30-1:00pm (INSET Day)

Students in Year 10

Friday 3rd September 9:00-10:30 (INSET Day)

Students in Year 9

Friday 3rd September 11:15-1:00 (INSET Day)

Students in Year 8

Return Dates

Friday 3rd September - Year 7 Induction Morning

Year 7 students will return for their induction Morning on Friday 3rd September. They should be in school no later than 8:40 and will leave school at 12:15. Students will undertake their first test as part of this morning or on Monday 6th September. Student should make their way to the hall. Staff will be available to provide directions.

Monday 6th September

Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 return to school. Students must be in school by 8:40.

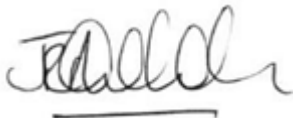
Tuesday 7th September

All year groups return to school. Students must be in school by 8:40.

As stated earlier, I will write to you again towards the end of summer with any updates but also a reminder of school standards to discuss with your children upon return. After a fragmented and disrupted year for students, it is important that students return with the high expectations and standards that are inherent at Garibaldi and that ultimately lead to positive student outcomes and amazing personal development.

I trust you will all have a great summer break and I look forward to seeing you in person in the next academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Aldred
Head of School