

July 9<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

As we come towards the end of a second very disrupted and challenging academic year this letter provides some important updates.

## Covid matters

**Testing** – students should continue to test next week but there is no requirement for twice weekly testing over the holidays unless students are coming in for the summer school – in which case they should test before and during the week of August 16-20<sup>th</sup>. Please inform school of any positive LFD or PCR tests up to Wednesday July 21<sup>st</sup> so that we can contact any close contacts as may be necessary – email [contact@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:contact@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk) with any positive test results. There will be no form sent home during the holidays for the return of results.

**September and the new academic year.** You will have seen from news reports that the Government is asking schools to provide two lateral flow tests in school as students start the new school year. I will send further details out about this next week but it does mean a change to our published dates. In principle our plan will be to invite students in for the first test on the day before they are due back:

	First test	Start school	Second test
Year 7	<b>Friday September 3rd</b>	Monday September 6 <sup>th</sup> as planned	Thursday September 9th
Year 11	<b>Friday September 3rd</b>	Monday September 6 <sup>th</sup> as planned	Thursday September 9th
Year 8	Monday September 6th	Tuesday September 7 <sup>th</sup> as planned	Friday September 10th
Year 9	Monday September 6th	Tuesday September 7 <sup>th</sup> as planned	Friday September 10th
Year 10	Tuesday September 7th	<b>Wednesday September 8th</b>	Monday September 13 <sup>th</sup>

So that we have accurate and up to date consent forms I would be grateful if you could complete the attached form whether you are giving consent or not. Please be assured no one will be tested without consent or if they do not want to do the test on the day. However consent was overwhelming in March and I would hope it would be the same again for the start of the academic year.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KmRPY3CzdEmmLdv4oiFT5bfXpr6a\\_0xBjwJna6CVWNUNzUzMU9GTetIS1FORzZUMVU3Q0w0UEpLVC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KmRPY3CzdEmmLdv4oiFT5bfXpr6a_0xBjwJna6CVWNUNzUzMU9GTetIS1FORzZUMVU3Q0w0UEpLVC4u)

The plan I will send out next week will have further details of how we will continue to mitigate against Covid and how we will respond to any positive cases or anyone with symptoms in light of all the new guidance.

## FSM Vouchers

The Local Authority has given the go ahead for council funded vouchers for all students in receipt of free school meals, including current Year 11, for the summer holiday period up to a value of £90 per student. If your child receives free school meals, you will receive the vouchers in the same way as on previous occasions and they have been dated from July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Holidays 2021-22

The additional bank holiday for Her Majesty The Queen's platinum jubilee falls during half term in June 2022 and so schools have been instructed to take the additional day at another time in the school year. I would therefore like to draw your attention to a change in the published holiday calendar: Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup> will now be an INSET day and Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the first day of half term. **Students will therefore finish for half term at 3.10 pm on Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup> and NOT Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> as published.**

## Staffing

We are fully staffed for September and have just four members of staff leaving at the end of this term. I would like to record my thanks to Mr J Johnstone who is moving to be Deputy Headteacher in Bacup, Miss R Kealey in Geography, Mrs S Butcher in Science and Mrs J Clements in English, for all they have contributed to the learning and wellbeing of our students. I wish them all the very best for what comes next.

As a result of Mr Johnstone's promotion there will be some changes to the leadership team here in school:  
Mr D Morton will take over responsibilities for safeguarding, behaviour and pastoral care  
Miss J Wareing will take over responsibility for teaching & learning in the school  
Miss L Coulthard will take over responsibility for progress in Key Stage 4 and the mental health strategy in school. She will remain Head of Year 11.  
Mr A Penney will remain as Head of Year 7 but take up a new role responsible for progress in Key stage 3 and student leadership/engagement in extra-curricular activity across the school.

I would like to thank all the staff, whatever their role in school, and the Governors for all their hard work during this challenging year.

## Uniform & Equipment

As always at the end of a term can I ask that uniform items are replaced that need to be and that equipment is checked and replaced so that we start the new academic ready to learn and not distracted by having to deal with any uniform/appearance matters. Please do not allow your sons and daughters to have anything done, particularly regarding piercings and haircuts that will cause a problem at the start of term. The uniform policy is on the website and the equipment list will be in the September plan I will send out next week.

## The School Fields

We are intending to put some new fencing up at the bottom end of the school's sports field over the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students that they should not be accessing the school fields outside of school time.

## Summer Holidays

This summer term will end for students at 1.25pm on Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> and as we begin to see restrictions ease hopefully shortly after that, I hope they and you have an enjoyable summer. It has certainly been a challenging year where staff and students have had to adapt and work very differently at times and I know that has placed more stress and strain on many. Hopefully we can all have a relaxing summer and look forward to something a little more normal in September. Thank you for your continued support and for the many positive messages we have received during this year.

With best wishes



Mr A Waller  
Headteacher