



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

Headteacher
Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

15th July 2021

Dear Year 7 Parent

Firstly, I would like to welcome your child slightly in advance to The Cowplain School and look forward to working with you and him/her over the next five years. Please see below for some important information related to the start of the Autumn Term.

Start to Autumn Term

All Year 7 students should attend school at 8.30am on Thursday 2nd September. They should assemble on the main playground and will be organised into their tutor groups. They will then go to their tutor base with their tutor.

Testing

The Government has tasked schools with testing students twice for COVID using lateral flow devices on their return to school.

On Thursday 2nd September we will immediately start the process of asking students to self-administer lateral flow tests. Many children will have already taken these tests as they have been freely available to the public for a number of months. Mr Brockhurst, Deputy Headteacher, will oversee the testing process and we have specially trained members of staff who will show children how to do the test and guide them through the process. These staff are the same ones who successfully helped administer over 3000 tests earlier in the year so are very experienced in reassuring young people and are aware of any anxieties they may have.

After the first round of testing on the first day, children will administer one more supervised test between 3-5 days after the first one.

We require your consent in order for your child to self-administer a test. In order to give that consent, please complete the form using the link below:

(This letter has been sent to personal email addresses, along with the Privacy Notice. For data protection purposes we can't publish the link to the consent form. If you require the link, please contact office@cowplainschool.co.uk)

The consent form was set up in January for students who were with us then, so you will see in point 1 of the form reference to a letter of 12th January. Please ignore this, it refers to a letter similar to this one sent to all our parents at that point. Of course, you would obviously not have received this letter as your child was not in the school at the time.

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If you do not wish your child to complete a test, do not complete the form; I do not need to know the reasons why you have made your decision and will respect whatever that decision is. If you have any questions related to the testing process please contact Mr Brockhurst via email NickB@cowplainschool.co.uk.

System of Controls for September 2021

The school will generally look and feel like it did before the pandemic, with students moving freely around the school and accessing all specialist classrooms, such as Science and Art. We will, however, keep some of the changes we made during the last year. For example, we will continue with split breaks, so only two or three year groups will be on break at once. We have invested in two large canopies and an additional sales point for food so students can remain outside throughout the seasons.

INSET Days 2021/22

Please note, Hampshire County Council have agreed an additional holiday for students and staff due to the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee falling during a school holiday. This has been placed at the end of the summer term. We will thus hold our final INSET Day on Thursday 21st July 2022 and so school will finish at 12.10pm on Wednesday 20th July 2022.

Finally, we understand that next term and the year ahead will continue to present many challenges but I can assure you that staff at The Cowplain School will continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of our young people and to ensure your child has the best experience possible when joining us in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr I R Gates
Headteacher