



**THE
COWPLAIN
SCHOOL**

Headteacher

Mr IR Gates MA NPQH

14th July 2021

Dear Parent

No doubt you will have seen reports in the media about the roadmap for schools in September. As always, I wanted to write to you to explain the important information you need for the end of this term and the start of next. In the short term, no changes will be made to our system of controls i.e. our 'bubble' system, until we return in September as there seems little point in doing so for 3 or 4 days this term after 19th July. From September, we will return to most of the structures that were in place prior to the pandemic. More information can be found below:

Summer Term 2021

Summer Term finishing date/time

School will finish for all students at 12.10pm on Thursday 22nd July.

Schools responsibilities for Test and Trace

From 19th July, schools will no longer be responsible for tracing of close contacts; instead, this will be the responsibility of the NHS Test and Trace (T&T) system. Any student testing positive for COVID should, of course, stay at home and close contacts of that student will be contacted by T&T. All students should therefore attend school until the end of term unless they have symptoms, have received a positive test result or been advised to self-isolate by T&T or the school.

Autumn Term 2021

Testing

The Government has tasked schools with testing students twice for COVID using lateral flow devices on their return to school. If you have not registered your consent previously, or informed us of your non-consent, then we will write to you separately about this, providing you with a link to the google form. This will include new students joining us in Year 7.

Staggered Start Dates for Autumn Term

As we found when we tested students on their return from lockdown in April, testing a large number of students is a difficult logistical challenge. Therefore, we will follow the government's advice to stagger the start date for all year groups. Please see below the date/time when your child should attend school:

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Thursday 2 September 2021			
Year 7		Year 11	
Year 7 students should arrive at 8.30 a.m. and assemble on the Main Playground, where they will be organised in their tutor groups. They will then go with their tutor and will be tested as follows:		Year 11 students should arrive at the Gym 5 minutes ahead of their tests which are at the following times: <i>* Those choosing not to take a test need not attend</i>	
7MA	0835	Surname A-B	1210
7SN	0900	Surname C-F	1230
7HR	0925	Surname G-I	1250
7SW	0950	Surname J-M	1330
7RM	1015	Surname N-R	1350
7EB	1040	Surname S-V	1420
7WH	1115	Surname W-Z	1500
7JB	1140		
Normal Year 7 lessons will follow from 12.10 with lessons 4 and 5.		Year 11 students should return home as soon as they have taken their test. Their full timetable resumes on Friday 3 September.	

Friday 3 September 2021			
Year 8		Year 10	
Year 8 students should arrive at the Gym 5 minutes ahead of their tests which are at the following times, by teaching group :		Year 10 students should arrive at the Gym 5 minutes ahead of their tests which are at the following times:	
8E	0835	Surname A-C	1210
8F	0900	Surname D-G	1230
8G	0925	Surname H-L	1250
8H	0950	Surname M-R	1330
8I	1010	Surname S-Z	1350
8J	1050		
8K	1115		
8L	1140		
Normal Year 8 lessons will follow from 12.10 with lessons 4 and 5.		Year 10 students should return home as soon as they have taken their test. Their full timetable resumes on Monday 6 September. <i>* Those choosing not to take a test need not attend</i>	

Monday 6 September 2021	
Year 9	
Year 9 students should arrive at the Gym 5 minutes ahead of their tests which are at the following times:	
9CJ	0835
9ED	0900
9CD	0925
9SD	0950
9EC	1050
9NT	1115
9RC	1140
Once they have completed their test, students go to their timetabled lessons for the remainder of the day.	

The schedule for the second round of tests will be published for students after the first round is complete but our aim is to complete all the testing by Friday 10th September.

We will use the same trained support staff for the testing as we did in April, which means we may not be able to provide normal service during that first week. For example, many LSAs are involved in the testing and they may therefore not appear in your child's lessons. However, as I have stated above we hope that normal service will resume from the end of the first full week back.

System of Controls for September 2021

As stated above, 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 the 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. Finally, whilst core school hours will return to 8.30am-2.30pm for Years 7-10, Year 11 will receive one extra hour of lessons a day, so their compulsory school hours will be 8.30am-3.30pm (except on Thursdays when they will finish at 2.30pm).

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.

Thank you

Finally, we are coming to the end of what has been a very difficult year for staff, students and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the staff at The Cowplain School who have worked tirelessly during the year and have adapted to the constraints forced upon them extremely well. The attendance of staff has, quite frankly, been amazing and we have even had colleagues with COVID or self-isolating live streaming lessons. Likewise, a huge thank you to students; again, their attendance has been far higher than the national average and they have taken on board the arrangements to keep everyone safe brilliantly and without complaint. Finally, a huge thank you to parents who have supported our young people and the staff.

We understand that next term and the year ahead will continue to present many challenges but I can assure you that everyone at The Cowplain School will continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of our young people.

Yours sincerely

Mr I R Gates
Headteacher