



Monday 23 August 2021

Dear Parents

Wimbledon College – Start of Year September 2021

We look forward to welcoming all of your sons back to the College for the start of the new academic year.

Minimising the risk of spreading Covid-19 remains a priority and testing is one part of our ongoing preventative measures. We have been asked to test all pupils in school at the beginning of term. To ensure that this runs as smoothly as possible we are staggering the return to school. In addition to this we are asking pupils in Years 8-13 to come into school before the start of term to have their first test [as laid out in my End of Year letter in July]. Pupils in Years 8 -13 will only be in school for their first test and can wear their own clothes.

Pupils in Figures [Year 7] will have their first test on their first day - Friday 3 September.

Schedule for first test [Years 8-13]

Year	Houses	Day	Arrival Time
Rhetoric [Y13]	C, F, H, L	Thursday 2 September	12.30pm
	M, O, S, X	Thursday 2 September	1.15pm
Poetry [Y12]	C, F, H	Thursday 2 September	2.20pm
	L, M, O, S, X	Thursday 2 September	3.00pm
Syntax [Y11]	C, F	Friday 3 September	9.30am
	H, L	Friday 3 September	10.00am
	M, O	Friday 3 September	10.30am
	S, X	Friday 3 September	11.00am
Grammar [Y10]	C, F	Monday 6 September	1.00pm
	H, L	Monday 6 September	1.30pm
	M, O	Monday 6 September	2.00pm
	S, X	Monday 6 September	2.30pm
Lower Grammar [Y9]	C, F	Monday 6 September	9.30am
	H, L	Monday 6 September	10.00am
	M, O	Monday 6 September	10.30am
	S, X	Monday 6 September	11.00am
Rudiments [Y8]	C, F	Tuesday 7 September	12.30pm
	H, L	Tuesday 7 September	1.00pm
	M, O	Tuesday 7 September	2.30pm
	S, X	Tuesday 7 September	2.00pm



Year	First day of term
Figures - Year 7	Friday 3 September
Rudiments - Year 8	Wednesday 8 September
Lower Grammar - Year 9	Tuesday 7 September
Grammar - Year 10	Tuesday 7 September
Syntax - Year 11	Monday 6 September
Poetry - Year 12	Friday 3 September
Rhetoric - Year 13	Monday 6 September

After the two tests in schools all pupils are being asked to undertake twice weekly testing at home, as was the case last term. Similarly, staff will be expected to test twice weekly. I ask that pupils continue to report their test results to both 'Test and Trace' and to the school.

We are maintaining our increased hygiene procedures with pupils expected to wash/sanitise their hands throughout the day and we will be supporting the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' campaign.

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it

All staff, pupils and visitors are encouraged to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to respiratory hygiene

- *use tissues when you sneeze/blow your nose
[if you do not have a tissue then sneeze into your elbow]*
- *dispose of the tissue in lidded bin*
- *then wash/sanitise your hands*

In addition, we will maintain good ventilation in classrooms and throughout the school. Pupils travelling on public transport will be expected to wear face coverings when on public transport. Pupils will be free to wear face coverings in school if they wish to do so.

Requirement that if you are ill you stay at home/ Covid-19 symptoms

- It is essential for the health of everyone that pupils who are ill remain at home.
- Pupils with Covid-19 symptoms must remain at home and follow the latest Government guidance [['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#)].
- An important part of the guidance is that parents make arrangements for children who have Covid-19 symptoms to be tested as soon as possible.
- Parents should inform the school of the outcome of the test.

Developing symptoms in school

- If anyone develops Covid-19 symptoms in school they will be sent home and advised to follow ['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#)
- Pupils will be isolated from other pupils and staff and parents will be asked to collect their child from school immediately.
- Parents should get their child tested as soon as possible and inform the school of the result of the test.



Managing Close Contacts of Positive Covid-19 cases

Arrangements for managing close contacts of positive Covid-19 cases have changed and schools are no longer expected to identify close contacts. This is now the responsibility of the 'Test and trace system'.

Importantly close contacts of positive cases no longer have to self-isolate if they are under 18 years 6 months of age or have had both of their Covid-19 vaccinations. Government guidance is that any one in these groups who is identified as a close contact is strongly advised to take a PCR test. If they test positive then they have to self-isolate as for all positive Covid-19 cases. They do not have to self-isolate while waiting for the test result.

To help reduce any possible spread in school we will expect all pupils and staff who are identified as a close contact to take a PCR test.

School Day arrangements from September 2021

- We are returning to normal start and finish times to the school day and there will no longer be any class bubbles or Year group zoning.
- Tutor groups will be House groups
- We have decided to keep our registration period after period 2. This means that period 1 will be starting promptly at 8.30am.
- **It is essential therefore that pupils arrive at school before 8.25am.**
- Break/tutor time will be staggered. Lower Line will have break at 10.10am and Tutor Period at 10.30am. Higher Line and Sixth Form will have Tutor Period at 10.10am and break at 10.30am
- Lunch will be 12.40 – 1.20pm for all pupils however entrance to the Refectory will be staggered with Lower Line allowed in from 12.40 – 12.55 and Higher Line from 12.55.
- KS3 [Lower Line] will revert back to 30 taught periods
- We are introducing a PSHE lesson on Tuesday mornings

Timetable

Bell	Lower Line	Higher Line & Sixth Form
8.25	<i>Morning Bell</i>	<i>Morning Bell</i>
8.30	P1	P1
9.20	P2	P2
10.10	Break	Tutor Time
10.30	Tutor Time	Break
10.55	P3	P3
11.45	<i>Travel Time</i>	<i>Travel Time</i>
11.50	P4	P4
12.40	Lunch	Lunch



Travelling to and from school

- We are continuing to encourage to cycle or walk wherever possible.
- Pupils should not catch a bus to school from Wimbledon Town Centre, Wimbledon Village or Raynes Park [*If pupils are already on a bus before these points they can remain on the bus*].
- Pupils should walk to school from these three points.
- Pupils will be expected to walk to Wimbledon, the village or Raynes Park after school.

Playgrounds

We are reverting back to usual playgrounds. The exception to this is that Year 8 will use the Syntax playground at break time.

Toilets

We are reverting back to the usual designation of toilets

- Lower Line Toilets – Years 7-9 only
- Higher Line Toilets – Years 10 & 11 only
- Sixth Form Toilets – Sixth Form only
- Sixth Form girls can use the girls' toilets in the Computing block and the individual toilets in Reception and the Sixth Form block.

Emergency alarm procedures

In the case of the alarm sounding the normal procedures for evacuating the buildings and lining up on the school field remain in place

Pupils should maintain social distancing as much as possible.

Food and access to serveries

Full service for all pupils in Years 7-11 will be available from the main servery at break and lunchtime. Sixth Form will not be able to access the Refectory during their breaktime.

We intend to open the external food servery for 'grab and go' [cold and hot] food only.

We will be restarting our breakfast service [before school] again from the beginning of term.

Paying for food

Pupils will continue to use cards, linked to their School Gateway account, to pay for their food. It is essential that boys keep this card safe and bring it with them to school every day if they want to buy food. Parents unsure about setting up a lunch account should contact the College's finance team.

Cash will not be accepted for any food and therefore it is essential that all parents set up a lunch account and keep it in credit. This includes Higher Line and Sixth Form pupils who will be purchasing food from the Refectory. The default daily limit on pupil spending is currently set at £5.50. You can raise or lower this limit if you chose to do so.

We will have a contactless payment reader that Sixth Form pupils will be able to use.

Own equipment in lessons

To reduce the possibility of transferring the virus pupils must only use their own stationery [pens, pencils, ruler, etc.] in school and they are not to lend it to anyone else. Pupils must also have their own calculators with them as well.



Pupils must ensure that they come to school with the correct equipment.

Use of mobile phones in lessons

We are conscious that there may be occasions in lessons when it will be advantageous for pupils to be able to access the internet and they will not have access to computers. We are therefore allowing, with the teacher's implicit instruction, pupils to use their phones for this purpose. Teachers will tell pupils when to switch their phones on and off for the learning activity.

If pupils have their phones on in lessons at any other time the phone will be confiscated. Phones should remain switched off at all times except when the class teacher gives permission for the phones to be used.

Parent Briefings

We will be holding our Year group parent briefings as virtual meetings on Google Meet and links to the meetings will be shared via SchoolComms.

The meetings will take place on the following days:

Year 7	7.00pm Monday 6 September
Year 8	6.00pm Tuesday 7 September
Year 9	6.00pm Thursday 9 September
Year 10	7.00pm Thursday 9 September
Year 11	6.00pm Wednesday 8 September
Year 12	7.00pm Tuesday 7 September
Year 13	7.00pm Wednesday 8 September

With best wishes
God bless,

Adrian Laing
Headteacher