

Return to College September 2021



This guidance is to provide information relating to the return to College in light of government guidance for Covid-19. It is not a general handbook of start of term information.

More general guidance can be found in the parent handbook:

- <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Parent-Help-Book-2021-2022.pdf>

or in end of year/start of year letters for each year group:

- https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=3452

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Overall Expectation:

Following a staggered start to term, by Wednesday 8 September *all* students should attend school every day and receive their normal amount of teaching time and curriculum delivered within the parameters of the government guidance and prioritising the health and safety of all.

As restrictions have been eased following the move to Step 4 of the roadmap, the advice is for clinically extremely vulnerable people, as a minimum, to follow the same guidance as everyone else. All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) children and young people should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend.

This document is a guide to our opening systems for the start of term and structures considering current guidance and consultation. Guidance can change at short notice and feedback can identify or suggest improvements so there will be constant review over the coming weeks. The updated whole school risk assessment is also shared on the website. Our community has shown great resolve and flexibility in dealing with changing expectations of school operations and we are confident that with good

communication we can overcome any concerns and ensure students return to the high-level education and routines of school life they need.

Please note the previous strategies used in the academic year 2020-21 such as year group bubbles and one-way systems are no longer advised as necessary. As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at social time although adapted social time College practices will be introduced in the new year.

Guidance on our risk assessment including ventilation of spaces and face coverings is given in this document along with our overall control measures.

LFD Testing: commencing 3 September:

The guidance states that as pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. This means the first week back will be staggered as we use our trained teams to run these tests. Uniform is not required for the day of testing. Each year group will have another school-based test during the week before students are advised to continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. We will equip students for home testing once all have returned.

The tests are designed to identify asymptomatic carriers - people who feel fine but may have COVID-19. Our experience has been that the swabbing and testing procedure becomes very much a quick and straightforward process that our community has a strong track record of completing for the benefit of all.

However, if a student has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in the return to school testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result. There have been a number of school/college age cases throughout the summer and all of those children and young people along with many who tested positive in the summer term will fall into the 90-day period across the first week of the new term. If any student test positive as a result of the LFD testing then we will make contact and advice of the next steps immediately.

The table below shows the days on which each year group is in for their test only day. We will send separate information for each year group that outlines the test procedure and details the specific time each student is expected for their test prior to starting back. We have a potential 1500 students to test across three days so it is really important that students who are to be tested keep to their timeslot.

Friday 3 September	Year 7 and 6 th Form will be invited in for lateral flow testing at specific times of the day and then to go home. Parents will be able to accompany Year 7 on this occasion for their test slot if desired. All other students remain at home and follow the guidance issued on Firefly.
Monday 6 September	Years 12 and 13 and Year 7 will have their first full school day. Years 10 and 11 will be invited in for testing at specific times and then go home. Year 8 and 9 follow the guidance on Firefly
Tuesday 7 September	First full day for Year 10 and 11. Years 8 and 9 will be invited in for testing at specific times and then go home.
Wednesday 8 September	All year groups in school

We do not want year groups worrying about catching up with missed lessons while they prepare for the start of term or travel to and from their test so we will set tasks on Firefly for all year groups from Monday 6 September that focus on “getting ready for College” that can be done throughout the day. The day after the test, students are back in for full school days which will begin with a Tutor time at 8:40.

Permission for testing is not assumed - especially given the 90-day guidance above - so please complete the form provided to indicate permission. Any student who is not to be tested will still follow the timeline and work set for their year group before returning.

Tests 2 will take place within the school day. Students will leave their lesson at a designated time to do the test and then return. We envisage disruption to learning will be minimal. There are plenty of staff around to help and reassure anybody nervous about the process.

Positive Results

We have been through this pandemic long enough now to realise that there is no stigma attached to returning a positive test. Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They will also need to [get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19](#).

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. As with last term any student self-

isolating who feels well is expected to work from home and can access their lessons through Firefly as provided by their teachers.

Decisions made to ensure the safety of the school environment:

College will be a safe environment although as with before, or any environment in society where people are circulating transmission is possible and it is likely we will have cases to report and respond to. There is clear contingency advice from the DfE, our risk assessment and contingency planning will be updated on the website at the start of term.

Outlined below are some of the key actions taken to ensure we are confident we can fully open safely. These will be reviewed regularly going forward. Revised risk assessment reflects the latest government and scientific guidance and includes the essential control measures of:

1. Good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Therefore, the following apply:

- Lateral flow testing programme for staff and students to identify necessary self-isolation procedures for asymptomatic carriers
- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law however, expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college. Therefore, we will not require them but students are able to wear face coverings as they wish to.
- Classroom protocols for cleaning desks and sanitising hands overseen by staff but to be the responsibility of all on site. The opening of windows and doors will maintain a flow of fresh air through rooms.
- An enhanced whole school cleaning regime to be implemented as well as supporting the ability of staff/students to take personal responsibility for cleaning their work space if desired.
- In all but extreme weather conditions all students will be outside for both break and lunch accessing the building just for canteen or toilet facilities. We recommend all students bring a coat to school.
- Adjusted behaviour and safeguarding policies remain to enable the school to ensure a safe and uninterrupted learning environment for all.

Access to Lockers:

Students should access their lockers as soon as they arrive at school or en-route to their next lesson, they should not enter the building to access lockers during break and lunchtime.

PPE and cleaning:

Our risk assessment has reviewed our current practices against guidance. Students will be expected to wash hands or sanitise at regular points during the day. All classrooms and toilet areas have sanitiser equipment for students to use.

Before school, break and lunch:

We recommend a warm coat is worn to school as social times will be outside. Before school students will be expected to enter via the student entrance and make their way immediately outside to the designated area for their year group (this will be clear to students on arrival) as they have done for the last year. They will be supervised in general areas and entry to the school will be in time for 8:40am.

Year groups do not have specific designated spaces for their break and lunch. As always, designated staff will be on duty at the start and end of the day and during breaks. If the weather is particularly bad we have inside social spaces the students can use, these will inevitably involve closer contact than outside and hence are not our first preference.

Our canteen service will provide full hot meal service including break service. Before school breakfast service will resume on 20 September.

Toilet facilities:

A cleaning regime between lessons ensures these are free for use in social time. Students will have the ability to access sanitiser wipes to use themselves in the facilities as well as the increased cleaning regime throughout the day.

Uniform and Equipment:

Students are expected to be in full school uniform and can carry masks for their own use which must be kept and maintained for sensible use. Students must have their own full set of school stationery to reduce sharing. Students are advised to carry their own pack of sanitiser wipes and gel dispenser for ease of use.

Behaviour Expectations:

The addendum to our behaviour policy is still in place to cover the heightened expectations around students abiding by our health and safety structures. We are

confident the vast majority of students have a good understanding of the importance of following these structures and systems; however, we will take very seriously those who are unable to meet the standards we expect.

Extra-curricular offer:

We are really proud that we have been able to maintain aspects of our extra-curricular offer throughout the year. A full extra-curricular offer will be in place from September. Details will be released over the first few weeks.

Responding to actual or suspected cases of COVID 19 in school:

We will continue to implement our protocols if a positive case is identified either in or out of school, contact tracing will continue to be carried out by NHS Test and Trace. We have suitable spaces for the isolation of anybody who becomes unwell on site. If we have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19 we will be guided by the advice of Public Health England and will inform parents appropriately at the time. It is important parents also inform us if members of your household have a positive case.

School Risk Assessment:

Our updated policy and contingency planning is published on the school website:
https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=2092035

Other useful links:

- <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/24/back-to-school-what-you-need-to-know/>
- DfE: [Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance](#)