

July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: End of term and provision from September

As we reach the official end of the academic year, I write to inform you of the plans for the last few weeks and to update you on the plans for September.

The **last day of provision for Year 10 is Friday 17th July**. School officially closes for the Summer at **midday on the 22nd July**. The final three days of term will be used by colleagues to continue their training for the widespread use of Microsoft Teams. There will be no taught lessons during these last three days but we will be open for key worker pupils. The provision available will be supervision whilst they work on their moodle tasks. **The first day of Autumn term will be Friday 4th September when all pupils will be welcomed back to Test Valley.**

Last week we received the wonderful news that from September, we will be able to open the school to all pupils. This is what we have all been hoping for and we are incredibly pleased to be able to do so.

Parents and carers will understand that we will need to take some additional precautions to limit the potential for Coronavirus to spread. Whilst all the information suggests that children are at low risk, we must be mindful that we will need to make some adjustments to our working practice to account for the needs of those who may be more vulnerable to serious illness and the adults who work in school.

In writing our risk assessment upon which our decisions are based, we are drawing on the Department for Education Publication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak> (2nd July 2020).

I will be **hosting a live presentation to parents/ carers at 6pm on Monday 13th July**. This can be accessed on the following link :

<https://www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk/parents-live>

In this presentation I will talk through, in detail, the extensive plans we have put in place to minimise risk within school whilst ensuring a quality educational provision. Parents can access this link after the event if they are unable to join at the live time.

As part of our preparation for September I would like for **all our young people to join myself and their tutor for a session in school prior to the holidays**. It is important that our young people can see first hand the safety measures in place and also have opportunity to talk with their tutor about any concerns and fears prior to the start of term in September.

HEADTEACHER ▪ MRS F.A. DEAN M.A. (ED) NPQH
HEAD OF SCHOOL ▪ MS T. WILDEN B.A. (HONS)

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These sessions will run from 9am – 12pm and we would like Year groups in at the following times:

Current Year 7 – Tuesday 14th July
Current Year 8 – Wednesday 15th July
Current Year 9 – Thursday 16th July
Current Year 10 – Friday 17th July

Pupils **do not need to wear uniform** for these sessions but will need to bring a water bottle, pen and snack. They need to report to the main hall on arrival and must enter through the top carpark.

We very much hope you will be able to support with getting your child to school for their session in order for us to work with them and put to rest any fears prior to the new academic year. If you have concerns around the timings of these sessions or need support in getting your child to these sessions then please do email us at the school office.

Update with staffing:

At the end of the May term we said goodbye to **Mrs Gibbs** who many of you will have had contact with as the SENCO. Mrs Gibbs was an invaluable member of the team and is already very missed. At the end of this term we also say goodbye to **Mrs Payne** (Subject Leader for English) and **Mrs Foulds** (teacher of Maths). We wish them both best of luck with their new roles and thank them for their dedication to Test Valley.

Joining us in September we have **Mrs Wheeler** who joins us as our new SENCO. We also say a warm welcome to **Mrs Collins** who joins us as our new Subject Leader for English. Both of these colleagues have extensive experience in their roles and we welcome their expertise.

As part of our drive to ensure the highest possible standards we will be moving to a Year system from September. Whilst your child will still be in a House and the House system will remain an important part of the ethos of the school, from September your child will be monitored by a Year Leader. The Year Leader will work closely with the tutor to monitor your child's attendance, progress and wellbeing.

Year 7 will be led by Mr Murdoch Smith

Years 8 and 9 will be led by Mrs Osborne

Years 10 and 11 will be led by Mr Langdown.

Along with the tutor, these Year Leaders should be your first port of call for any concerns or queries about your child.

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Furthermore, we have changed the structure of the day to move from 6 lessons to 5 lessons. Four of these lessons now take place before lunch. After lunch your child will have a PSHE/ Tutor session before the final lesson period 5. There is no change to the start and end time of the day. We have simply maximised learning time within the day.

In summary

Please join me for the Live Team event at 6pm on the 13th July when I will go through the finer details of the start of term and the changes made to maximize your child's wellbeing and progress. Please also support us in meeting with your child prior to the end of term, in their allocated slot, so they can experience first hand the measures we have put in place to keep them safe and have an opportunity to talk with their tutor about their hopes and fears for September.

Over the period of lockdown we have used the time to completely overhaul the school building. There is not an area of the school which has not been deep cleaned, renovated, and painted. The site team have worked miracles. We are delighted that all pupils can return in September to experience this. It's been a really challenging time for everybody and we look forward to our community being reunited in the Autumn term. Thank you as always for your continued partnership and support.

With best wishes,



Ms Wilden

Head of School