



Cheslyn Hay Academy

Part of Windsor Academy Trust

Saredon Road Cheslyn Hay Staffordshire WS6 7JQ
Telephone 01922 416024 Facsimile 01922 414411
Email headteacher@cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
Website www.cheslynhayacademy.org

Headteacher Ms N Crookshank BA (Hons) MA

15th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and excited to join us here at Cheslyn Hay Academy in the coming weeks. As you may be aware, the Government, via the Department for Education, has now issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools effective from Monday 19th July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from that same date.

Usual protocols are in place through to the end of this academic year, however, we wanted to write to you to keep you updated of the changes currently in place in line with the new guidance for September onwards:

- **Bubble system:** It will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles. This means that if your child will be taking part in any summer provision, such as summer schools or activity camps, they will not be bubbles. It also means that there will no longer be a bubble system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.
- **Self-isolation for children and young people:** From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- **Face coverings:** Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport.
- **Asymptomatic testing:** As students will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, the government guidance states that all secondary school pupils should receive two on-site tests; these will be either Lateral Flow Device tests or Orient Gene tests 3-5 days apart, on their return in September. Schools can stagger the return of students across the first week to manage this. Students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Please see the full [guidance](#) for further details

Plan for testing

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging students returning to school to be tested. We will be looking to test all our students on return to school in September. The first test for Year 7 will take place on Friday 3rd September and full details of times and further arrangements will follow. To support your child through this process you will be able to accompany your child for the first test if you feel you would like to do so.

In order to plan for the lateral flow testing and students return to school we are asking for parental consent prior to their return date. **Please fill in the following [Google form](#) to inform us of your decision regarding consent.**

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained adults. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and/or throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the pupil/student of a positive test result. As participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

What if my child develops symptoms? This testing programme at the school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by calling 01922 416024

Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. This will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

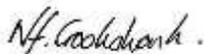
As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our pupils and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

As was the case at the start of the pandemic when we had to adjust to a new way of life, this new change again may inevitably create some uncertainty as we all adapt. However, we will continue to work closely together as a school community to ensure the best outcomes for students, staff and our wider community.

Finally, as final preparations are taking place, you should be receiving a personal letter with your child's tutor and house information and we will be sharing further information regarding summer school as well as our full September start.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact transition@cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk and we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Crookshank
Headteacher