

16 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a relaxing break so far.

Further to the letter you received on 08 July, we write with further and more specific details about your child's return to Monkseaton High School in September.

COVID-19 protocols and risk assessment:

We have reviewed and updated our protocols in line with the most recent government guidance and advice from the LA health and safety team.

From September we will continue to:

1. Ensure good hand and respiratory hygiene through:
 - Frequent and thorough hand cleaning
 - Using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important
2. Maintain appropriate and frequent cleaning regimes
3. Ensure the school building and spaces are well ventilated
4. Continue with COVID testing -testing is important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within school
5. Follow Public Health advice and guidance

The government no longer require schools to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') or to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, should any staff member or student wish to wear one, they may of course do so.

Positive/Symptomatic COVID cases

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into school if they have symptoms or have had a positive test result. If a student develops symptoms whilst at school, they will be separated from other students and MUST be collected by a parent/carer.

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19. 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.

Close contacts

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years are no longer required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

Return to School

Covid Testing before students return to school:

All secondary school pupils are required to have 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

The government have told us we may commence testing before the start of term and we can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. We plan to begin this on Tuesday 31 August and each year group will attend at different dates and times. A letter has been sent home to each child indicating their specific date and time for their first test.

Tuesday 31 August		Wednesday 01 September		Thursday 02 September	
08.45	9ED	08.45	10MH	08.45	Y13
09.45	9LK	09.45	10MM	09.45	11EC
10.45	9JEM	10.45	10SHL	10.45	11KMM
11.45	9JD	11.45	10ST	11.45	11ITC
13.15	9SG	13.15	12EJM	13.15	11LA
14.15	9BJ	14.15	12KT	14.15	11CW2
		15.15	12HH	15.15	11PAJ

You have already provided consent for this on-site testing however, if anything has changed you can update or withdraw your consent using [this link](#).

Start of Term:

Below is the plan for the first week back at school:

Monday 30 August	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 31 August	COVID-19 on site Testing begins (see above)
Wednesday 01 September	Teacher Training Day 1
Thursday 02 September	Teacher Training Day 2
Friday 03 September	Year 9 – Induction Day (8:45am arrival) Year 12/13 – Induction Day (9:45am arrival) <i>Year 10 and 11 are not in school</i>
Monday 06 September	Year 9 – RESPECT Day (8:45am arrival)

	Year 10 – Induction Day (8:45am arrival) Year 11 – Induction Day (8:45am arrival) Year 12/13 - 1:1 Appointments
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School Day:

- All students are required to be on site for 8:45am
- Each year group will have their own entrance into the building
- Every Tuesday, school finishes for students at the end of lesson 4 – 2:15pm.

School Day 2021-22	Timings
Students on site	8:45am
Registration and tutorial	8.50am – 9:10am
Lesson 1	9:10am – 10:10am
Lesson 2	10:10am – 11:10am
Break	11:10am – 11:30am
Lesson 3	11:30am -12:30pm
Lunch	12:30pm -1:15pm
Lesson 4	1:15pm- 2:15pm
Lesson 5*	2:15pm – 3:15pm

Lunch:

- Students will not be permitted to leave site during lunch time.
- A range of hot and cold options will be available for all students at lunchtime, and we are working with our catering team to plan this now.
- ParentPay is used in school for students to pay for food at both break and lunch. For new students North Tyneside Council will be in touch over the summer to set up your account. If you are an existing student, your account will remain active. If you have any queries about this, please direct to parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk
- Students in receipt of Free School Meals will have their ParentPay account automatically updated
- Students can also use debit cards to pay for lunches
- Students may also bring their own packed lunch, drinks and snacks to school.
- Water fountains are available to use in school. We recommend each student brings a water bottle to fill when they wish to use the fountain.

Break time:

- There will be catering facilities available at break time.
- Students will be outside for breaktime. In the event of inclement weather, students will be allocated a designated area in school.

Uniform:

- School uniform should be worn as normal. School uniform and PE kit policy can be found [here](#)
- Students may attend school in their PE kit only on the days that they are timetabled PE. We found this to be very successful last year as there was a greater amount of time for learning and physical activity in PE lessons. We plan to trial this for the first term and review at Christmas. PE kit must be the school PE kit outlined [here](#)
- Uniform can be purchased on-line; the link is [here](#)
- It is essential students wear/bring a coat to school as break will be outdoors unless the weather is extremely wet/cold.

Mobile Phones:

- The rules on mobile phones remain unchanged; they should not be seen or heard anywhere in the school building, except during break and/or lunch times in designated areas.

I appreciate there is a lot of information in this letter. However, we feel it is important for students to be aware of what to expect when they return in September. If you have any queries before the end of term, please don't hesitate to contact us.

It is also important that we have your correct contact details. Please update us if you have recently moved to a new house or updated your phone number or email address by contacting the school office Office@monkseaton.org.uk

We can't wait to welcome all our students back in September!

Best wishes



Jo Suddes
Headteacher