

# Dormers Wells High School

## MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

Dormers Wells Lane, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3HZ  
 Tel: 0208 566 6446 Fax: 0208 813 2411  
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15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter is to update you on the **planned return to school in September 2021** following the recent announcements and guidance from the Department of Education. I will update you if there are any further changes during the summer holidays.

Once again, we have been asked to continue testing in the autumn term and therefore, will have a staggered start to the new term. Please read the information below, which details the return of each year group.

**To facilitate testing of all students before their return, there will be a staggered start from 3rd September 2021 (week 1).**

**Please carefully note the start dates for each year group below:**

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021	Y7	8.30am – 3.15pm	Entry through the main gate Allenby Road Entrance
	Y10	12.20pm -3pm	Entry through the main gate Allenby Road Entrance
	Y12	10.20am – 2.30pm	Entry through the Dormers Wells Lane gate into the Canteen. Exit via Allenby
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Y7, Y8, Y10, Y11, Y12 & 13	All students should arrive by 8.45am	Entry through the main or park gate
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Year 9 plus all year groups in school.	All students should arrive by 8.45am	Entry through the main or park gate



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**Timing for the school day** - School Day will begin at 8.50am and end at 3.15pm. Students should be in school by 8.45am onwards.

**Entry to school** - We will no longer have three entrances. The main school gate and the park gate will be open from 8.30am.

**Organisation of the school** - Students will no longer be in “year bubbles.” Students will be able to move freely around the school. Students will continue to sanitise their hands as they enter the building and classrooms. We will continue to follow the guidance in relation to good ventilation and keeping a record of student seating plans in the rare case we will have to track and trace.

**PE (Physical Education) Kits** – students will no longer come to school in their PE kits. They will change into PE kit on the day they have PE in the school changing rooms. If your son/daughter comes to school in PE kit, they will be asked to return home to change into their full school uniform.

**School Uniform** - Students will be expected to be in full school uniform. [Click here for the expectations around uniform at DWHS.](#)

**Outdoor coats** – students will not be allowed to wear outdoor coats while in the school building.

**Face coverings** - from September, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. 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. At DWHS, we would like to confirm if you wish your child to continue wearing a facemask then this is acceptable but not compulsory. **If we have an outbreak within school, we may advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).** This will be covered in our outbreak management plan.

### Asymptomatic testing and confirmatory PCR tests

**All secondary school pupils should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.** Schools are advised to stagger the return of pupils



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across the first week to manage this. Our students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Staff will continue to undertake twice-weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed. We will retain a small asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on-site until further notice so that we can offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home.

### Important Information about Testing on return to school

Testing dates and times for the first test for each year group: you will be provided with a timed slot for the day of your test. All student must wear their school uniform to their testing appointment. Please see your time slot below:

1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	Y10, Y12
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	Y7, Y13
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021	Y11, Y8
6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Y9

**Managing positive cases** - All pupils, staff and other adults should continue to follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. **They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result, or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).** If anyone within school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will be required to send them home and they should follow public health advice.

**Contact tracing and isolation** - From September close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from within school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a very small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

**Dealing with close contacts of positive cases** - From 16 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. Instead, children will be contacted by



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NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated.

**Risk assessment and contingency planning** - We will regularly review and update our risk assessments – treating them as ‘living documents’, as the circumstances in school and the public health advice changes. This includes having active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned. Any restrictive measures in school will only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum numbers, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Many of these changes afford us the opportunity to return to ways of working that allow all students to access specialist spaces, re-engage with practical work, build community with students outside of their own year group and once again enjoy performances and sporting fixtures. This will be so important for all of our students. We are of course mindful that COVID is still with us and within the community and our risk assessment and contingency planning will reflect this and our ways of working will be continually reviewed.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your fantastic support over the last year – it has been really appreciated to receive so many positive parental messages. I wish you all a restful and safe summer break and look forward to welcoming all our students back in September.

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Walsh  
Headteacher



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