



03 September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome Back – September 2021

Firstly, can I warmly welcome you to the academic year 2021-2022. We are looking forward to what we (and I am sure all of you) hope is a year of normality. The school has undergone such a transformation in the last few years but undoubtedly the momentum of this change has been disrupted by the two lockdowns and other disruptions of last year. Therefore, we hope this year can be used to embed further some of the great improvements we have made in the school.

Testing and COVID

A huge thank you to all the parents who supported our start to the year by ensuring your children got up to school for COVID testing on Thursday. This will allow us to make a smoother start to the day on Monday. Our second round of testing for most students will take place on Tuesday with those tested on Monday having their second test on Thursday. I am pleased to report that we have had no positive tests so far!

Our arrangements for COVID prevention are a little different so I would like to share these with you. Our rationale is to ensure the safety of our community whilst at the same time endeavouring to make the students school experience as 'normal' as possible.

The main points are as follows:

- We will keep our one-way system as this keeps corridors more orderly and everyone facing the same direction in our internal space. The one-way system also puts an emphasis on students moving around the school out of doors.
- Classrooms will be always well ventilated with windows and doors being opened whenever possible.
- Students being greeted by staff and being given a squirt of hand sanitiser as they enter the teaching room
- Specific toilets will be allocated for different key stages
- Close contacts of COVID cases are no longer required to isolate but will be contacted and a PCR test will be recommended.
- Face coverings are no longer required to be worn in classrooms and around the school but students who wish to wear a face covering may do so. The same rule applies to students using school transport.
- Students will be asked to take two lateral flow tests each week

What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?

- If your child has any of the three symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new, continuous cough, or a change to or loss of a sense of taste and smell) they should self-isolate immediately and request a PCR test
- If someone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19, then everyone in the household should immediately self-isolate unless they

are fully vaccinated (14 days have passed since their second vaccine) or they are under 18-years-old, in which case they are not required to self-isolate.

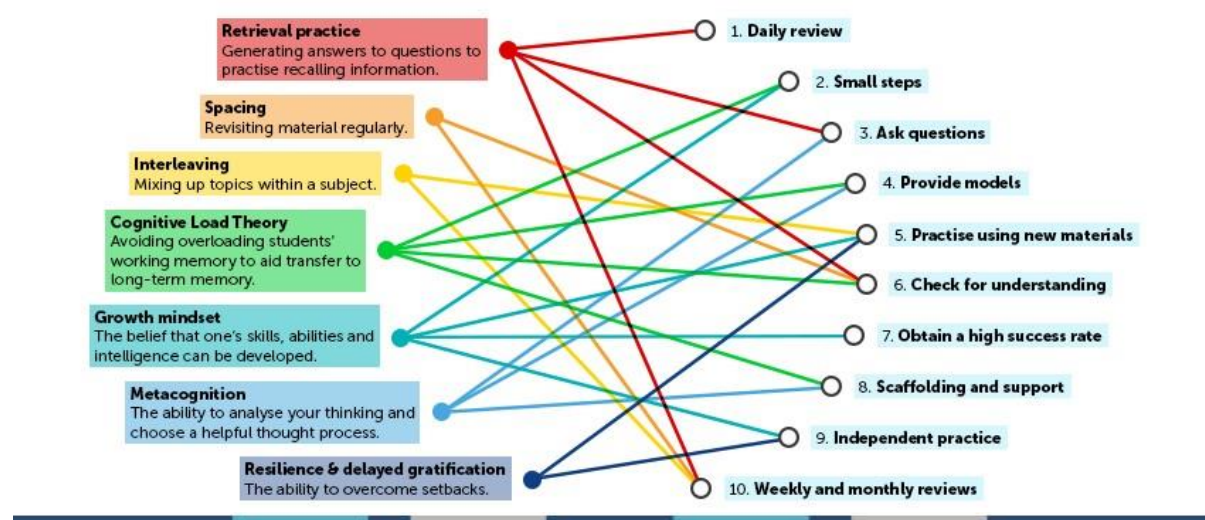
Our risk assessment for this term is in the process of being ratified by our trust board and governing body and as soon as it is I will share it with you via our website.

The start of term and lesson expectations

We can't wait to start term on Monday and for term to start properly. We will keep our emphasis firmly on our MECE principles and I attach a slide that summarises our work.

The cognitive science behind Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction

by @Inner_Drive | innerdrive.co.uk



There will also be a big focus on homework this year and we have been working with staff on what high quality homework looks like.

As ever we will have a keen focus on routines and high expectations for behaviour and over the next few weeks there will be a clear emphasis on teaching the students what is expected of them. The classroom is a place for orderly conduct and quiet industry and just as last year I hope that this is what we will see lesson after lesson, day after day.

Welcome Parent Evenings

At the end of last term Year 8,9,10 and 11 parents were invited to our Welcome Parent Evenings in the information sent out in last school report (Year 8 and 9 are on Wednesday and Year 10 and 11 on Thursday). These take place on Wednesday and Thursday next week and a formal reminder to the invitation will get sent out on Monday. These events will be a great chance to hear about the year ahead and what is required of the students. We look forward to seeing you there!

Results Day

GCSE Results day on August 12 seems a long time ago but was such a lovely occasion and I attach some photos of our happy students. Whilst the data is difficult to compare with anything as the results were compiled in such a unique way, we had many great successes such as: Some of our outstanding performers included:

- Isabelle Fulford Perez: eight Grade 9s and two Grade 8s
- Daniel Hughes: seven Grade 9s and two Grade 8s

- Molly Beech: five Grade 9s, three Grade 8s, one Grade 7

Overall, 26.17% of all the grades awarded were achieved at Grade 7 or above and 60.42% of all grades were at Grade 5 or above. These positive attainment grades demonstrate and reflect the strong position of the school at this current time.

In addition, we are delighted that the students are about to start their studies and working lives in such a great range of destinations. These include Kendrick School, Piggott School, Highdown School, The Downs School, Berkshire College of Agriculture, Henley College, Aquinas College and Reading College as well as a range of apprenticeships. The breadth of destinations is a strong indication of the robust careers advice for the students in ensuring they understand their possible destinations after Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge.

Year 7 - Day One

Lastly, our new Year 7s have had a wonderful first day with Covid tests, icebreaker activities, school tours, English and Maths lessons, and a welcome assembly. I particularly enjoyed my lunch with all of them in the canteen. It was a delight to chat to them and see them all looking so smart.



Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes

Andy Hartley
Headteacher

