



27th August 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

RE: Start of Term arrangements and in-school COVID-19 protection measures.

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and enjoying the summer break with your family and friends.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back our Cantell community from the 6th of September onward. This letter acts as a reminder of when and how students should return but will also highlight the control measures we will have in place to minimise and mitigate the risk of our community catching COVID-19.

Return to School Dates and Times

In line with Government guidance, we will have a staggered return to School to enable COVID-19 testing to be carried out. Students in Years 8-11 should carry out a single saliva test prior to their return and students in **Year 7** will carry out two LFD tests on their return to School. Please see the schedule of testing, together with the return dates and times below:

Year	Drop off Saliva Sample	Return to School	LFD Test day 1	LFD Test day 2
7	N/A	Monday 6 th September 8.15 am	Monday 6 th September	Thursday 9 th September
8	Tuesday 7 th September 7am – 9am	Wednesday 8 th September 8.15 am	Wednesday 8 th September	Friday 10 th September
9	Tuesday 7 th September 7am – 9am	Wednesday 8 th September 8.15am	Wednesday 8 th September	Friday 10 th September
10	Monday 6 th September 7am – 9am	Tuesday 7 th September 8.15am	Tuesday 7 th September	Friday 10 th September
11	Monday 6 th September 7am – 9am	Tuesday 7 th September 8.15am	Tuesday 7 th September	Friday 10 th September

Please note – a student handing in a Saliva test does not need to complete two separate LFD Tests

Saliva tests should be dropped off to the collection boxes outside main reception at the School as per the schedule above. **To assist families who live further away from the School, staff will also be collecting samples from the Abu Bakr Mosque on Argyle Road in Southampton.** It is important that samples are dropped off promptly and before 9am to ensure they can be analysed on that day.

On the first day, students will be expected to arrive from 8.15am but no later than 8.30am. In order to support a safe and calm entrance into school the following entrances and routes must be used to access the relevant Lesson A year group base:



Year 7 will enter via the main student entrance and walk straight in to the Humanities corridor.

Year 8 will enter via the turning circle entrance, walk through the canopy to the rear walk way and enter via the rear stairwell of Humanities and proceed up the stairs to the English corridor.

Year 9 will enter via the main student entrance and turn left and walk up the stair well to the next floor and into the Languages and downstairs science corridor.

Year 10 will enter via the turning circle entrance, walk through the canopy to the rear walk way entering the building via the rear stair well nearest technology. They must then head up to the top floor entering the top science corridor.

Year 11 will enter via the main student entrance and turn right and walk up the stair well to the top floor and into the mathematics corridor.

Further details of our return to School along with other key information is available in our Parent Guide: https://www.cantell.co.uk/force_download.cfm?id=7009

COVID-19 Protection Measures

There will no longer be any 'bubbles', staggered days or self-isolation for contacts of those who test positive for COVID-19. Whilst it has been a huge relief to get life back to some level of normality over the last few weeks, we know the rate of infections in the England is rising and we must learn from the experience in Scotland where schools returned two weeks ago and are seeing an exponential rise in cases. Whilst in both Countries, serious illness from COVID-19 remains low, my priority has to be ensuring our students have an uninterrupted exceptional experience in School, allowing them to continue their growth, both academically and socially. In order to minimise and mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in School we will continue to:

1. Maintain and encourage amongst our community the highest levels of hand hygiene. To do this we will be continuing with hand washing and hand sanitising stations around the School. Of course, they will not be every-where, so I strongly advice students carry their own small bottle.
2. Maintain the best levels of ventilation we can by ensuring all windows and doors are open. Of course, we will be sensitive that the consequential temperature in the room might require students and staff to wear their outdoor clothing in class.
3. Maintain weekly asymptomatic testing through either the saliva or lateral flow device tests.

Face Coverings - I appreciate the topic of "to wear or not to wear" has been controversial over the past 18 months and I join others in welcoming the relief of not having to wear a face covering over the last few weeks. I have, however, like many of you, continued to wear one indoors, where there are larger crowds, and the chances of contracting COVID-19 are greater.

We have, as you know, in the past mandated the use of face coverings, sometimes above Government guidance and I have been blown away each and every-time by the responsibility and commitment shown by our community. Times have changed, particularly with the effectiveness of the vaccine programme and I do not feel it is fair to mandate this again, particularly when restrictions have been lifted elsewhere. It is clear, however, that the more of our community that wear a face covering in School, the lower the chance of transmission and disruption to children`s education and it is on this basis that I recommend the continued use of face coverings in School and in particular when in large crowds indoors. I must be clear, the choice to wear a face covering through the day or at certain parts of the day lie with the individual and in the case of children, with them and their parents, carers, and guardians.



As always, should you have any questions or queries about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to email me: head@cantell.co.uk.

And finally, a message to your children on behalf of the Cantell staff - we cannot wait to start the new Academic year and welcome you to or back to your School. We will work hard, alongside you, to ensure you have the very best experience and achieve all you want to in 2021-22 and beyond.

Warmest regards,



Harry Kutty
Headteacher

