



9th September 2021

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

RE: Update - Week beginning 6th of September

"I didn't realise I missed this so much until now I'm not even sure what this is, but it's great." This was a message a Year 9 student gave me when I asked her how it felt to be back to School. I have received a similar response from others students and from staff who like me are overjoyed to be back and most importantly, to a level of normality that we have not experienced since March 2020. I have spent most of my time, as have other leaders in the School, out and about - in lessons and on duty during social times. What we see is a 'University style' campus where students are pushed and challenged to be the best they can be in lessons, but at the same time have the freedom and flexibility to relax and re-energise at social times by carrying out a variety of activities dependent on who they are and what they want to do. Most importantly, what we have seen and what I am most proud of is the palpable sense of 'family' at the School with the older students mixing and helping the younger ones to settle into their new School.

Put quite simply - it's great to be back and our students have made an excellent start to the academic year.

In the background, we are, more subtly, continuing with our COVID-19 Protection measures in order to maintain the 'normal' but also balance this with our absolute desire to ensure a continuity of education for all the youngsters in our care. All our windows and doors remain open to maintain good ventilation, students and staff continue to make use of hand washing and hand sanitising stations across the School and including in classrooms. In addition to this many students and staff are wearing face coverings in a hybrid way with some wearing them all of the time, some wearing them in classes or when there are large crowds. What has been really lovely this week is to see the happy and smiling faces of students and staff.

In addition to these protection measures, return to School testing has been equally important and I am grateful to you and our students for the high participation rates. I am also indebted to our staff who helped to create the significant infrastructure that allowed us to deliver this programme. Regular asymptomatic testing is important and from next week, the saliva testing schedule is as follows:

SALIVA TESTING SCHEDULE

Monday - YEAR 9
Tuesday - YEAR 8
Wednesday - YEARS 10 and 11
Thursday - YEAR 7
Friday - STAFF

N.B Year 7 participation next week is dependent on registration. If you have not been registered for one reason or another, please can you ensure you follow the national guidelines and ensure your young person is tested using a lateral flow device (LFD) twice a week.

I cannot stress how important testing will be in maintaining a continuity of education for every young person so I ask for your support in ensuring this is carried out - saliva testing once a week or LFD testing twice a week.

REPORTING CASES OF COVID

If your young person contracts COVID-19, they must self-isolate and we ask you to email the relevant Year leader as per the details below:

Year 7 – jo.hartley@cantel.co.uk

Year 8 – ryan.swain@cantell.co.uk

Year 9 – karen.gange@cantell.co.uk

Year 10 - sandy.bassi@cantell.co.uk

Year 11 – hazel.evans@cantell.co.uk

CAP – lena.beattie@cantell.co.uk

As always, if there are any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me - head@cantell.co.uk or headspa@cantell.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Harry Kutty
Headteacher

