



St. Thomas More High School

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13th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope you and your families are enjoying the summer break and apologise for having to contact you during the holidays. As you are no doubt aware, the Government guidance has greatly changed and therefore we are updating our risk assessment and plans for September. With support from Southend Health Protection Team, we are now preparing our Outbreak Management Plan in case of an outbreak in our school or local area.

We once again need your support in preparing students for their return to school in September by undertaking a Lateral Flow Test in the **week before** returning to school and a second on **Sunday 5th September**. You can order LFD home test kits from [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy. From August, there are changes to Lateral Flow Device home testing. NHS Test and Trace are introducing a new type of test, Acon-Flowflex, which requires nasal only swabs. Schools will receive Orient Gene test kits for use onsite which are also nasal only swabs.

Please report your test result to both NHS [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) and school [Student COVID Test Results \(office.com\)](https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/student-covid-test-results).

On our return in September, we will continue to open our small asymptomatic testing site in school twice a week to provide students the ability to test in school during form time (8.30am – 9.10am). Testing twice weekly is helping us spot new outbreaks quickly and respond.

From September close contacts will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace not school and advised to take a PCR test. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 and fully vaccinated adults identified as close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Please continue to report positive cases to school and **students with symptoms should not attend** school until they have received the outcome of their PCR test. Please report a covid related absence using this link available on our website. [St Thomas More High School Student COVID Absence Report \(office.com\)](https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/student-covid-absence-report) With effect from 16th August under 18's will no longer be advised to self-isolate if they are a close contact however if the child tests positive and is advised to self-isolate from NHS Test and Trace then the parents can still claim from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if they are unable to work from home.

We will continue to remind and encourage good hand hygiene and have made no changes to our enhanced cleaning schedule and hand sanitiser is still widely available. There is no requirement for students or staff to wear face coverings, but they may do so if they wish.

Lunchtimes remain slightly staggered as students have enjoyed more space and shorter queues in the canteen. As you can see from the timings of the day below, there will be a mid-morning break during which students can consume any food or drink they have brought with them outside. Unfortunately, they will not be able to purchase food on-site during break time.

Timings	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Registration 8.30 – 9.10	Form Time	Form Time	Form Time	Form time	Form time	Form time	Form time
P1 9.10 – 10.10	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson
P2 10.10– 11.10	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Single Lesson				
11.10 – 11.30	Breaktime all students Year 7 – 11 outside Year 12 & 13 breaktime (offsite)						
P3 11.30– 12.30	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson	Double lesson
P4 12.30 – 1.30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH				
P5 1.30 – 2.30	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
P6 2.30 – 3.30	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Single Lesson	Single lesson	Single lesson	Single lesson	Single lesson
3.30	End of day						

We anticipate further guidance from the Government later in August and may have to update you again, but we look forward to beginning a new school year with a full academic and extra-curricular timetable from Friday 3rd September for Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 and Monday 6th September for all year groups.

Take care, enjoy the rest of the summer break and God Bless.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher