

27 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT TERM

I am writing to you about our COVID-19 arrangements over the summer and in the autumn term as well as arrangements for student return in September. I would like to thank everyone for their support this year. Our students have shown great maturity in following the COVID-19 precautions we have had in place and adapted well to the changes.

As you may know, the Government published new guidance for schools around COVID-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read this if you click here](#) or by searching 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance Step 4.' Additional guidance for parents can be found [here](#).

Over the break we will be making changes as per the new guidance.

In September, what precautions will be the same?Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff will continue to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We will continue to follow good hygiene around sneezing, using and then disposing of tissues safely.

Cleaning

We will continue to have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning equipment and a focus on frequently touched areas.

Ventilation

We will continue to ensure that the school is well ventilated.

COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Pupils and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have had a positive test, or are required to quarantine. If a pupil shows symptoms at school, parents will need to collect them and request a test.

The household (including those showing any symptoms) should follow the [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Risk assessments

Senior leaders at school will continue to meet regularly to assess the risk at school. If necessary and in consultation with Public Health England, we will make changes to our arrangements to increase the precautions we have in place.



Asymptomatic testing

Testing will remain an important aspect of reducing the risk of infection spreading within school. As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils will receive 2, on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests, 3 to 5 days apart, just before or on their return in the autumn term. We will write to you again over the summer with the time and day that your child should attend for their lateral flow test on Friday 03 or Monday 06

September. If you have not yet provided consent for your child to receive on-site lateral flow tests, please do consider giving your consent for your child in [this form](#).

In addition, those pupils and staff who consent will continue to take two LFD tests each week at home in the new term until the end of September, when the government will review this.

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, they should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

In September, what precautions are changing?

Bubbles

The government's new advice explains that they are no longer recommending that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (or bubbles). This means that assemblies will be able to resume, lunch service can return to something like normal, and that the pupils will be able to use all the subject-specific classrooms.

We will spend some time over the summer considering what will work best around pupils moving around the academy. It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to bubbles should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

After the 19 July schools will not be responsible for contact tracing. Instead NHS Test and Trace will contact the family of the pupil with a confirmed case to identify who they have been in close contact with.

In addition, from September children under the age of 18 will not be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test.

Face coverings

From September, the Government have explained that face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

We know however that staff, visitors, and older pupils may still want to continue to wear a face covering. Understanding as we do the current level of risk, we encourage students and staff to continue to wear a face covering but note that this is now a personal choice. Those who chose to wear a face covering must follow the safety guidance around how to put one on and take one off safely.

It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to wearing face coverings should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community and Public Health England advise us to.

Children must only come to school if they are well, and everyone is responsible for following all precautions that remain in place. As is clear in the guidance, we as an academy will be prepared to reintroduce further COVID-19 precautions should it be necessary and we are advised to by Public Health England.

Free school meals across the summer break

Free school meals will be provided across the summer break, which are being provided by the Local Authority. We have already been in touch with those families that are eligible.

What support will my child have before the beginning of term?

We will be providing a short video showing the arrangements we have made in the Academy before the beginning of term. We will send you an MCAS notification with the link closer to the time. I hope this helps you and your child to prepare for the start of term.

We will also be inviting your child in for a one-to-one appointment as we always do at the beginning of a new academic year on Friday 03 September or Monday 06 September. It is so important that your child and a parent or carer attends their appointment so we can ensure they are clear on all the arrangements and to discuss the year ahead. For health and safety reasons only one parent or carer will be able to attend this meeting. We will write to you over the summer with the time of your child's appointment and the detailed arrangements for this event.

What do I need to do to ensure my child is ready for going back to school in September?

We ask that you support your child to prepare for returning to the Academy by doing these essential things:

- **Ensuring they have full correct uniform.** Please check the list carefully on our website before purchasing items of uniform. The list can be found here: <https://www.oasisacademysilvertown.org/academy-life/uniform> Ian Howard will have a pop up shop on site at the academy on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 August from 12pm to 3pm, which you can visit to buy your child's uniform. You may also want to donate or receive used uniform from the West Silvertown Foundation free uniform bank. Email pauline@wsfroyaldocks.org for more information.
- **Ensuring they have their own equipment, (pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, glue stick).**
- **Reading the 2021-22 Home Academy Agreement.** It is important that you go through this document with your child so they can familiarise themselves with academy routines and expectations. The links to these documents are here: **Home Academy Agreement** https://www.oasisacademysilvertown.org/uploaded/Silvertown/About_Us/Policies/HOME_ACADEMY_AGREEMENT_FINAL_2021-22.pdf
- **Ensuring your child completes the "Oasis 9 Habits" wellbeing activities set for them on Show My Homework.**
- **Consider sending your child to planned summer activities in our community to support their transition back to school.** You can find a flyer for summer activities across Newham here: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3446/summer-21-activities-3>

Thank you as ever for your patience and understanding during this time, and the support you are providing to your child. We are looking forward to welcoming them back in September so that they can get back to their studies safely and happily.

Yours sincerely



Emily Boxer
Acting Principal