

31 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family have enjoyed the summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our new year 7 students tomorrow for their first day at The Abbey School.

We would ask that they arrive for 8.45am and make their way to the main hall where they will meet the Head of Year 7 and their Form Tutors. This first day will consist mainly of tutor activities, including tours of the school, distribution of timetables, planners and knowledge organisers, and opportunities to practice our procedures and routines. We also plan to set the students up on our canteen registration system; this can take some time so we would recommend that for the first couple of days your child brings in a packed lunch or some cash. Lunch will, however, be provided for those eligible for Free School Meals.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

You will be aware that the government have recommended that schools test all students prior to their return in September and have given schools permission to delay the return of the students for a further week in order to do this. However, given that most of our students and their families have been using lateral flow tests confidently at home twice a week for many months, I believe that it's unnecessary for students in Year 8-13 to come in to school to have a test done here, rather than at home.

However, as Year 7s have not experienced testing before, they will be tested during their first day as long as parents/carers have given their permission via the online form sent last week: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=seJqziadYkaWa8FmyQmRLcolO6TFTE1DqFs3ZnLMClpUNEFNU08wRDIKVU9VWDRBU00xSko1QzRFMC4u>

Students will then be provided with lateral flow testing kits to take home. Guidance on how the tests are undertaken can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help#videos-how-to-do-a-rapid-test-at-home>

Test kits can also be picked up, free of charge, from most pharmacies <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

### **Masks/Face-Coverings**

Following updated government guidelines, staff and students will not be wearing masks/face-coverings on the school site. However, if any staff or students travel to school by public transport then it is strongly advised that they do wear a face-covering. The DfE are reviewing their guidance again at the end of September and we will react accordingly at this point.

Please enjoy the remainder of the break, I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Yours sincerely



Dr R Speller  
Headteacher