



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

09 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are enjoying the summer break.

I am writing to outline plans for the start of the new academic year. A year that I hope will see us return to much more normal times and therefore the day to day running of the school.

In terms of Covid, we have updated our school risk assessment with our external Health and Safety partners - Compliance Education. You will find a copy of this on our school website under the Covid response tab before the start of term. A few of the most important points are:

- The wearing of face masks will now be a matter of personal choice both in class and around the school.
- We strongly encourage everyone to maintain good hand hygiene including sanitising as much as possible throughout the day.
- The school will maintain an enhanced cleaning regime as it has done throughout the pandemic.
- We will encourage as many students as possible to be outdoors during break and lunchtime.
- The school will now operate a normal timetable with no 'bubbles'. Pastoral groups and recreational times will still be in zones but this is in line with the recent re-structuring of our pastoral system and has nothing to do with Covid restrictions.
- Close contact tracing will no longer be conducted by school. Instead this will be managed by NHS Test and Trace. If contacted by Test/Trace, your child should conduct daily testing at home and continue to come to school as normal as long as the test remains negative and they do not display symptoms. Please follow any instructions issued by Test/Trace in the event that your child is contacted.
- If your child does display symptoms at any time, you should keep them off school and arrange for a PCR test. Symptoms remain a loss of smell/taste, a persistent cough and/or a high temperature.

The Department of Education have asked schools to carry out two more LFD tests as previously at the start of the new school year. If you have previously given permission for your child to be tested, this will carry over to this round. For all of our new Y7 students, Mrs Donbavand has emailed an online form giving permission for your child to be tested. The programme and start of the new year will then be as follows:

- September 1st: Staff INSET Day; test 1 for all students in Year 8 and 9 only. Times for tests to be sent out nearer the time, then students will go home again following the test.
- September 2nd: Induction Day and test 1 for all students in Y7 and Y12. All other year groups not in school.

- September 3rd: First day of term for Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y11. Y13- tutor period and assembly, Pds 1 and 2 only. Test 1 carried out for Y10, Y11 and Y13. Y7 and Y12 not in school.
- Monday, 6th September will be the first full day of the new timetable for all year groups. Test 2 will be carried out in school for all year groups over the next three days.

In recent communications and in assemblies with our students at the end of term, I emphasised the need for a reset and a determination to really focus back on basic expectations. I reiterate that message again and ask for your support and help particularly with the following key items:

- Uniform and shoes. Please ensure that your child is equipped with the correct uniform as per our policy. PE kit may no longer be worn coming to or going home from school. Our changing rooms will be fully functioning in the new year. I would, once again, remind everyone that trainers are not acceptable footwear. Your child will be asked to go home in the event of them wearing trainers to change into the shoes that are acceptable as per the policy published on the website.
- A suitable bag, correct equipment and books: please ensure your child checks their timetable the evening before and that they pack their bag accordingly to ensure a full day of learning without disruption. Lockers will be re-issued in the new academic year to help with this as well.
- Please ensure your child arrives to school on time. School starts at 8.40. They should not arrive later than this time without good reason.
- We have been challenged by both the local Authority and the DfE to ensure improvement in our overall attendance rates. We are working in much closer partnership with Sefton next year to reduce unnecessary absence from school. I am grateful to the vast majority of our families who ensure that their child is here on time every day. However, where an individual's attendance rate falls below 95%, please expect to be contacted and steps put in place with the support of us and the LA to try and rectify this situation. I would also like to say that I will not be able to sanction holidays during the school term so please do not be offended when this is the case. This is the law and I am only able to authorise requested leave for exceptional circumstances. DfE guidance is very clear on this.
- The final aspect I would urge your support on is the concept of 'respect for all' and basic manners. We have all undergone a tough eighteen months. I felt that last half term, manners and respect in school were at times not up to the normal high standards we expect. Working in zones with masks no doubt contributed to this however now is the time to really put respect back at the core of our daily business. Again for a great majority this is never a problem but if your child has been losing merit points or receiving messages/sanctions related to any of this, please encourage them to come back to school refreshed and determined to make a fresh start with a positive attitude.

Apologies if this sounds like a list of 'do's and don'ts' but I know that putting our message of 'Range Ready, Respectful, Safe' at the heart of everything we do will ensure that your child receives the very best standard of education possible. That's what you want and it's certainly what we want as well. By working in partnership, we can ensure this happens for everyone and

that they go on to achieve to the best of their ability. Your support and help are crucial and much appreciated. Indeed without it, Range will not be the school we all want it to be.

Details of your child's Head and Assistant Head of Year were published in our end-of-term newsletter which is also on the website. I wish all of our new pastoral team every success in the new term. Please do get in touch with the relevant colleague if you have any questions in relation to the contents of this letter.

With every good wish for the rest of the summer break,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr McGarry', with a long, sweeping flourish underneath.

Mr McGarry
Headteacher