

12th July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing with an update on our outline plans for September. I hope you appreciate this communication sharing our planning which is designed to help you with yours. In September we are very much looking forward to a full return to school after a restful break for the students.

The last few months have been very challenging for us all and so we are delighted to be welcoming all students back to Copleston in September 2021. Over the past weeks the senior leadership team has spent time preparing for a safe opening using the guidance the government has given us to continue to give our students a broad and balanced curriculum. From July 19th schools are no longer recommended to keep children in bubbles.

September Plans

Please find below details of our school day for all year groups from September 2021.

	Arrive/ Tutor	Form Time 8.30-8.40	P1 8.40-9.45	P2 9.45 – 10.50	BREAK 10.50 – 11.10	P3 11.10 – 12.15	LUNCH 12.15 – 13.00	P4 13.00 – 14.05	P5 14.05 – 15.10	End of Day 15.10
Yr 7	8.20 Gate 1 Go to A block								(Wed WOW activities 14.05)	Dismiss Gate 1
Yr 8	8.20 Gate 1 Go to C block								(Wed dismiss 14.05 G1)	Dismiss Gate 1
Yr 9	8.20 Gate 2 Go to A block								(Wed dismiss 14.05 G2)	Dismiss Gate 2
Yr 10	8.20 Gate 2 Go to A block								(Wed dismiss 14.05 G2)	Dismiss Gate 2
Yr 11	8.15 Gate 2 Go to C block	(Yr11 form begins 8.20)							(Wed dismiss 14.05 G2)	Dismiss (or to revision/ Gate 2)
Yr 12	8.20 Gate 1 Go to Sixth Form								(Wed dismiss 14.05 G1)	Dismiss at 15.10 Gate 1
Yr 13	8.20 Gate 1 Go to Sixth Form								(Wed dismiss 14.05 G1)	Dismiss at 15.10 Gate 1

KEY TO GATES- **Gate 1** is the Britannia/alley gate accessible from Foxhall and Copleston Roads; **Gate 2** is on Heath Lane

Everyone's Invited Update

The 'Everyone's Invited' movement uncovered a huge amount of very worrying stories regarding sexual harassment of young people in educational settings. We recognise your child is the most important person in the world to you and their safeguarding whilst at school is our absolute priority. I hope the information below demonstrates how Copleston remains proactive rather than reactive to this important issue.

All our staff undergo thorough safeguarding training annually. In addition to this we have purchased a staff training software which all staff have completed. This involved brand new modules aimed at helping professionals recognise and learn to deal with any issue of sexual harassment.

We have undergone a thorough review of the RSHE curriculum ready for its total relaunch next September. We are very confident that after working with external professionals, within departments in school and talking to students we have got a well-balanced offer which incorporates many of the current contextual safeguarding issues affecting Copleston and the local community.

The form time packages have been completely revamped for September 2021 and offer an extremely comprehensive, well-rounded and informative set of weekly activities. It is composed of a bespoke booklet with daily activities following key themes which are shared in our weekly assemblies. We have, as part of this, strengthened our ties with local professionals including the police who have presented some assemblies for us.

If any student is unsure who to turn to in school if they have something to disclose, we have multiplied the number of posters in all areas. These posters have the faces of the safeguarding team: Henry Palmer, Michelle Crofton-Sleigh and Helena Bradshaw and where to find us. We have also introduced two new safeguarding poster boards, in the new and old building, with lots of useful information.

I have included some useful information below should you wish further information or guidance.

Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges

[Government Review](#)

NSPCC – Support and guidance for parents and students around sexual abuse

[NSPCC Guidance](#)

Kooth – Free online mental health support for young people

[Kooth](#)

In addition, our behaviour policy has been updated to include sexual harassment and sexual violence. This is on the website in the usual place:

[Go to Behaviour Policy](#)

I hope this has helped give you reassurance about what we are doing amidst a very difficult time for young people.

Student Behaviour Expectations and Safety Measures

As the country moves into Step 4 of the Roadmap, schools will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus, whilst reducing the disruption of the children. At present, the key points for September will as ever be the health and safety of all staff and students:

- Students will be given a specific gate to use to help minimise travel at key times and minimise disruption in key hot spot areas. Students will not be allowed into school early and any students who arrive late may be refused entry to the school. This will be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the day.
- Students will be in year group zones for form time every day.
- All students must provide their own stationery. Staff have limited ability to lend pens, pencils, calculators etc and students will not be encouraged to share these resources with others.
- Students will stay in year groups throughout breaks and lunchtime at a signposted area, unless they are to travel to a designated food supply place such as the dining room or coffee shop. All students will need to bring a large water bottle. We expect students to refill water bottles in order to stay hydrated to learn.
- There are hand sanitiser dispensers at the entrance to all classrooms and bottles of sanitiser in every classroom. Students are encouraged to use these on entry and exit from the classrooms. Masks can be worn if anyone wishes to do so.
- There is a one-way system throughout the school site. All members of the school community must follow these at all times.
- At the end of the school day, students will be dismissed from specific gates.

Please find below some frequently asked questions and answers that should be useful as we move out of Covid restrictions.

Who will be tracing close contacts and informing of the need for self-isolation?

From 19th July, schools will no longer be required to identify and isolate close contacts. This will now pass to the NHS Test and Trace team. Contacts will only be identified where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. With effect from 16th August 2021, children under 18 years and 4 months will be informed that they have been a close contact and are no longer required to self-isolate. They will be recommended to take a PCR test.

Will students need to wear a face covering?

From September, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors in either classrooms or in communal areas, unless advised by Public Health England following a local outbreak. Any member of staff or student who wishes to wear a face mask onsite are free to do so.

What Control Measures will be in place?

Schools have been asked to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone with continued use of hand sanitiser stations across the site
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes including regular daily cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated to ensure a good air flow and a comfortable teaching environment is maintained
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid 19. Students and staff should not come to school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result, or are required to quarantine. Any person(s) exhibiting covid symptoms will need to leave the site immediately and follow public health advice. We will contact parents so they can make arrangements for their son/daughter to be collected. Whilst waiting to be picked up, they will wait in a well-ventilated room on their own. This room will be cleaned thoroughly following all regulations after they have been collected.

What happens to Asymptomatic Testing over the summer holidays?

Over the summer, staff and students are encouraged to continue to test regularly. Schools are not able to supply these tests, however Lateral Flow Tests are available in local pharmacies and can be ordered online.

How will students be tested in preparation for their return to school in September 2021?

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive two onsite lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart on their return in the Autumn Term. Schools can start testing from 3 working days before the start of term and the DFE have asked schools to stagger the return of pupils across the first week to manage this.

Our plans for September are as follows:

Friday 3rd September 2021 – Years 7, 12 and 13 return

Monday 6th September 2021 – Years 10 and 11 return

Tuesday 7th September 2021 – Years 8 and 9 return.

Details of the testing arrangements to ensure a safe return to school will be sent directly to you from our Test Centre Co-ordinator, Mr David Shorten.

Will students still need to test in the Autumn Term 2021?

Pupils and staff should continue twice weekly testing whenever they are on site until the end of September when this will all be reviewed by the DFE.

What does a student do if they test positive on a Lateral Flow Device?

Staff and pupils with a positive Lateral Flow Device test result should self-isolate in line with national guidance and book a PCR test immediately. Whilst waiting for this result the person should self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test and it is negative, it overrides the self-test, and the student or member of staff can return to school so long as they do not have Covid symptoms.

What changes are there to school attendance?

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that all children attend school unless they have been advised to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace system. Parents will be asked to provide evidence to support this absence and it will be coded as x (not attending in circumstances related to Covid)

Will there be any remote education?

Schools will provide online support for those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive for Covid.

How will my child recover from this year?

The Department for Education have announced a number of programmes and activities to support pupils to make up education missed as a result of the pandemic. We at Copleston are engaging in all of these resources available to us to gain ensure your son/daughter recovers from this year's disruption.

How will you support pupil wellbeing?

We employ a dedicated onsite trained CAMHS counsellor at Copleston. Kelley Osman is keen to help and support students according to their individual needs. All students also have access to *Kooth*, an online counselling service which the school subscribes to. Students can make self-referrals to this confidential service via a link on the school website.

Will the canteen facilities be open in September?

Yes – we are expecting to open our facilities fully in September. We will continue to provide free school meal support to any pupils who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and who are required to work from home during term time because of self-isolation.

What happens to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people?

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves and minimise their risk of exposure to the virus.

Will there be any school trips next academic year?

We are allowed to resume UK based trips from September. We are not intending to book any overseas trips at the moment due to the uncertainty of foreign travel.

The regulations and advice to schools is ever in our mind and we will adapt the measures above as appropriate if required. Our main priority, as always, is to protect our students, staff, their families and the wider community and we are dependent on the continued goodwill and cooperation of everyone as school reopens.

Government Guidance

For more information on government guidance for students' attendance in September, please click on the link below:

[Government Guidance](#)

I also have attached below the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and our Year 8 - 11 Parent/Carer Handbook to provide you with more information.

[Go to Behaviour Policy](#)

[Go to Year 8 - 11 Handbook](#)

I have also attached below the school's Attendance Policy to provide you with more information.

[Go to Attendance Policy](#)

It was great to share in the excitement as England prepared for their first major final in fifty-five years and like many of us, eight out of eleven England players have at least one parent or grandparent born overseas. The depth of the combined heritage within the whole squad demonstrates what can be achieved when diversity is celebrated not merely welcomed.

As Gareth Southgate, the England football team manager said a few days ago: "Our players are role models. It's their duty to continue to interact with the public on matters such as equality, inclusivity and racial injustice, while using the power of their voices to help put debates on the table, raise awareness and educate. It's clear to me we are heading for a much more tolerant and understanding society, and I know our lads will be a big part of that." This tournament has given us a diverse team with uniting aims and have proven to everyone that a strong, positive and resilient character takes you far. The sad racial abuse some players received after stepping up for their country is not what needs to be focussed on. Instead, we can celebrate with pride how these young role models have provided a sense of achievement that we can all learn from.

Although the result in last night's final was not the ending many people would have wanted, it is important that after what has been an incredibly challenging year, we start to look forward to better times ahead.

I hope that you all keep safe and well over the summer break while enjoying time with your families.

I, along with all the staff here at Copleston, look forward to welcoming your sons and daughters back in September.

With my very best wishes

Mr AB Green