



# LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent

The Government has now issued new Operational Guidance for schools in relation to Step 4 of the Roadmap for easing restrictions. Essentially, for Lydiard Park Academy, it does not mean any changes this academic year although we are pleased that the Year 11 Prom will be able to go ahead as planned on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

In light of the anticipated guidance we had already started to make plans for the academic year in September and I will outline the main changes for next year. In many cases we will revert back to the normal running of the school Pre-March 2020, however, we have also recognised that some of our practice this year have aided the running of the school and we would like these to remain. We have termed these our 'Covid Keeps'.

### Mixing and 'Bubbles'

There is no longer a requirement to keep pupils in 'Bubbles' so that teachers will revert to having a main classroom with pupils moving around the school for their lessons. However, we plan to keep tutor bases for year groups together and in the vicinity of their pastoral office as we have found this to be beneficial this year. The mixing of pupils will be allowed at breaks and lunches but as pupils have enjoyed being separate at breaks we will still keep venues specifically for the Year groups. KS4 pupils will be able to have the small atrium to themselves and KS3 pupils the canteen in the Large Atrium. From there KS3 pupils will be able to go to the following separate venues:

- Year 7, New Sports Hall
- Year 8, Large Atrium
- Year 9, Old Sports Hall

### Arrival and Departure

There is no longer the need for pupils to arrive or leave at different times but we have decided that the stagger at the end of the day led to a safer exodus so KS3 pupils will depart at 2.55pm, Sixth Form students at 3.00pm and KS4 pupils at 3.05pm.

At the start of the day we are going to adopt the following times except for Sixth Form who will continue to start at 8.40am each day:

Day	Arrival
Monday	8:40
Tuesday	8:30
Wednesday	8:30
Thursday	8:30
Friday	8:40



Principal:  
Vice Principal:

Mr G. Pearson  
Miss S. Hesten

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The reason for the different start times is that we would like a longer tutor time in the morning so that we can implement a reading strategy in KS3 which will be part of our 'catch up' strategy. For KS4 pupils we will run a series of interventions during tutor time. This is not possible on a Monday or Friday as we hold whole staff meetings on those mornings.

In the morning KS3 pupils will be expected to go straight to their venues to wait for their tutor whereas KS4 pupils will go to their tutor bases.

## Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation

The school will only need to do contact tracing up to Step 4. From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from the school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. The school may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, pupils will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

The school will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

## Face Coverings

From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. However, the school will be sensitive to those pupils who would still like to wear a face covering. If we have an outbreak in school, a director of public health might advise us that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).



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## Control Measures

It is still recommended that the school continues with control measures which are essentially:  
Ensure good hygiene for everyone.  
Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.  
Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.  
Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

## Asymptomatic testing

There is no need for pupils to continue to test over the summer holidays. However, we will give pupils test kits to take home over the summer in case they feel they need to test and additional kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. We are still planning how this will be achieved and I will let parents know when we have finalised arrangements. The school will be allowed to commence testing from 3 working days before the start of term and can stagger return of pupils across the first week to manage this. I would prefer to avoid any further disruption to pupils' education so will look to minimise any impact when planning for this.

Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed by the Government. Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed by the Government.

There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period. They will be offered the 2 tests at school at the beginning of the autumn term when they start at their secondary school as a new year 7.

Obviously, a lot can change over the summer and we are also required to have an Outbreak Management Plan in case of a large number of cases reported locally or in school in the Autumn term. LPA would plan to return to 'Bubbles' if required and/or offer remote learning. Hopefully, it will not come to having to implement this plan.

We have just over a week to go until the end of term and we have a packed schedule with individual year group sports afternoons and charity festivals to look forward to. I hope you have a good weekend and I look forward to a nerve wracking 90 minutes (or more) on Sunday evening.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson  
Principal



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