

13th July 2021

COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during the pandemic. This letter provides a general update, and further information / expectations for the remainder of term and the start of the new academic year.

The Department of Education has issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools, effective from Monday 19th July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from the same date.

Our last day of school is Friday 23rd July and in-line with guidance we will be maintaining our COVID-19 control measures up until this date to ensure the health and safety of our pupils and staff. As such we will continue to encourage regular handwashing, social distancing, bubbles, separate dining provisions, seating plans and one-way systems. We will also expect pupils and staff to continue to wear face coverings until the end of term within internal communal spaces.

The only significant change will be for contact tracing. Schools will only be responsible for contact tracing until Sunday 18th July, from Monday 19th July close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.

There are several additional changes expected for schools in September, which also cover summer school, these are summarised below:

- Bubble System – No requirement to keep pupils in bubbles, allowing pupils greater freedom of movement / social interaction.
- Self-Isolation for Track and Trace – No longer required for people under the age of 18.
- Face Coverings – No longer advised in schools, and no-longer a legal requirement on transport.
- Testing – All pupils to be offered two school based COVID-19 tests on their return to school.

Please see the [full guidance](#) for further details.

We will be issuing the final school provided home testing kits this week, during morning registration / tutor time. These should provide enough testing kits to enable twice weekly testing up until the summer break. It has been confirmed the government will not provide these kits for the summer break, however the national scheme can be accessed [here](#) which provides free test kits.

It has also been announced that the Government is extending Free School Meal support for the summer break. This will be in the form of vouchers, provided by Devon County Council and distributed by the school. All eligible families will be written to this week, with the voucher codes enclosed.

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL

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This has been a long and challenging term for pupils, parents, and staff alike. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support. I genuinely hope that you are all able to find some time to relax and recharge during the summer.

The staff and I look forward to welcoming you back in September for what will hopefully be a 'near normal' year.

Best wishes



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher

