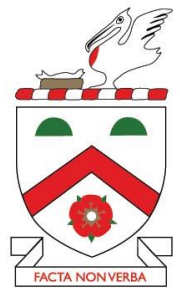


FRED LONGWORTH HIGH SCHOOL



July 16th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at the end of what has been a very challenging academic year but I also write to you with the hope that the next academic year will finally bring an end to the many difficulties that we have collectively had to face.

I know that this letter is long but it is important to spend the time reading it and discussing its contents with your child. September will bring some form of normality back to the school because many of the key restrictions and control measures that we have had to implement over the last year are set to be lifted. Of course, the information in this letter could change and I will write to you again before the return to school in September to confirm certain details and provide you with any updates.

Details about the start of term in September: Asymptomatic Testing

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, asymptomatic testing in school may restart on return in the autumn. If it does, we expect to offer your child **two LFT tests** on-site before continuing regular testing at home. These are the similar to the tests that are currently being used by students for home testing but are nasal tests only. Your child will undertake the tests themselves in school, supervised by trained staff. If your child tests positive they will be asked to self-isolate and then asked to take a confirmatory PCR test, which if negative will allow them to return to school. Having dismantled our testing capacity from earlier this year, we are not yet in a position to fully finalise the details; however, based on what we have in place so far it looks like our provisional testing regime will operate as follows:

- Sunday 5th September all students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 take an LFT test at home.
- Monday 6th September (staff training day). Year 11 students come into school but for testing only. After their test has been taken they will go home (the exact time that we expect your child in school for their test will be sent to you in August).
- Tuesday 7th September, Year 7 students only will start school at 8:30am. The Y7 students will be tested in form groups on a rota throughout the day.
- Wednesday 8th September all other year groups will return to school at 8:30am. Students in Year 10 will have their tests on Wednesday, Year 9 on Thursday and Year 8 on Friday.
- Sunday 12th September all students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 take a further LFT test at home.
- Week commencing Monday 13th September students attend school as normal. All students will be tested again on a rota during the week

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I will write to you again in August to confirm all of these arrangements.

Consent for testing

We will obviously need your consent to test your child. An electronic consent form will be sent to you separately. **All parents** will need to complete this form to either give or reaffirm their consent or to withdraw consent. This form will also need to be completed by parents of incoming Year 7 students. If you wish to withdraw consent, please do not email school, use the electronic form. Also, please do not email school to express your personal views about testing; we are testing students on the recommendation of public health bodies.

Arrangements for the new Year 7

Given the limited transition experience that the new Year 7 students have had, it is vitally important that the new Year 7 students get their first day in school, Tuesday 7th September, on their own to help them adjust to their new settings and orientate themselves around the building. They will receive their first LFT tests at some point during the course of their first day. At the start of term, we will also be carrying out some initial benchmarking testing, including reading tests. The results of these tests will be published to parents later in the term.

Returning to normal: The School Day

As long as restrictions are lifted in September, we will return to the pre-Covid school day. This means that there will not be a staggered start and end to the day and all students will arrive and leave school at the same time. This means that students will need to arrive at school for 8:30am (for an 8:35 start) and school will end at 3:00pm (with the exception of Monday Week B when school will close at 2:00pm). We will also end the split lunch and break time arrangements which we have used this year. A reminder of the timings of the normal school day is as follows:

Registration: 8.35am-8.55am

Period 1: 8.55-9.55

Period 2: 9.55-10.55

BREAK: 10.55-11.15

Period 3: 11.15-12.15

Period 4: 12.15-1.15

LUNCH: 1.15-2.00

Period 5: 2.00-3.00

Monday Week B Only

LUNCH: 12.15-1:00

Period 4: 1.00-2.00 (school closes to students 2.00pm)

Returning to normal: Ending of Year Group Bubbles and Year Group Zones and other Control Measures

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As long as guidance does not change over the summer, from September the bubble system and year group zones will end. This means that students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) will no longer be taught in just their form groups. We intend to resume year group assemblies and end year group zones on the school site. Students will have full access to all of our facilities, including all toilets on site. The canteen will resume full and normal service with access for all students. Breakfast will be served from 8.00am and there will be service at break time and lunchtime at both the canteen and Freddie's Express for all students. The cashless catering system will continue to run but we ask that parents continue to make on-line payments to their child's account instead of using cash payments, which was the norm pre-Covid. For Covid safety reasons, the cash loaders were disabled. We do not intend to reactivate all of them as people are now in the habit of using on-line payments. For all students who want to bring a packed lunch to school, the Canteen Drama Space will be open to all year groups to sit and eat lunch. Year 11 students will be allowed out of school at lunchtime, pending parental permission. We have written to Year 11 parents separately about this arrangement.

When we return to school in September, students should no longer need to wear face coverings; although this may be subject to change based on the local situation. Please do not email us with your personal views about face coverings, if we are asked to maintain face coverings, it is simply because we are following the public health guidance issued to us by the regional directors of public health. Parents will of course have the option to ask for exemption if face coverings are still required.

It is important to remember that Covid will still be with us in September. **If your child displays any symptoms of Covid, you should not send them to school** and inform us using the email address covid@flhs.wigan.sch.uk. We will still be encouraging basic hygiene measures such as hand washing and use of sanitiser. We will also be maintaining ventilation in classrooms by keeping doors and windows open where possible. This will be reviewed at the end of September.

Returning to normal: Extra Curricular Provision and School Trips

Extra-curricular provision is a key strength of Fred Longworth High School but unfortunately provision has been limited throughout Covid. From September we will start to restore many of the extra-curricular activities that we offer and we hope that your child is able to engage and find something that will interest them. Tentative plans are also being put in place for some domestic school trips, although some restrictions will inevitably remain. We will also hopefully be able to start planning trips abroad; however, these will be governed by international guidance and restrictions. Information about all of this will be sent to you in September.

Returning to Normal: Access to the school site for visitors and parents

Throughout Covid we have had to restrict visitors, including parents to the school site; however we hope that over the coming months the site will become more accessible to visitors. We are looking at how we can maintain some elements of the more positive aspects of remote working, such as conducting Progress Review Evenings over School Cloud.

Uniform Changes

A letter was sent out to parents on 10th June outlining changes to the school uniform for September 2021. A link to this letter can be found [here](#). We make no apologies for our high expectations because excellent standards in a secondary school start with high standards of uniform. The new dress (or trousers as the alternative to the dress) are to be worn by girls in Year 7. The expectation is that from September, students in all year groups wear the new tie.

New School Building

Our new block was handed over to the school on the 28th June and both the Maths and Humanities Faculties are now enjoying their new facilities. Discussions with selected contractors are well underway with regards to the next phase of replacing the remainder of the school buildings and we hope to have some exciting news and proposals to share with you in September. From the initial plans that I have seen so far, they are impressive and represent a significant investment in the local community.

Year 11 2022

Year 10 (Year 11 2022) have faced unprecedented disruption to their education this year, which is of great concern to us all. The exams boards are currently reviewing with OFQUAL how Year 11 2022 will be assessed and examined. There is a broad acceptance that concessions will need to be made to this cohort's examination series but we do not have the full details of what this will look like just yet. As a school, we have strong catch up plans in place for September, these include additional lessons and revision classes, a focus on study skills as well as investment in high quality resources. We will be inviting parents to meet with us early in the term to discuss your child's progress, effort and engagement. The date for the progress review meeting is 11th October 2021. Please save the date and further details about how to make an appointment will be sent out to you in due course.

In negating the impact of Covid, your child's own Attitude to Learning is critical and we need to make sure that all the students in Year 11 are working as hard as they possibly can be. Covid has been a problem but it is not an excuse; each child's success at the end of Year 11 will ultimately be a mark of their own effort, hardwork and commitment. To support the Year 10 transition into Year 11, all Faculties have set Summer Homework for the students to complete over the holidays. This is not intended to be onerous but to help students recall key information and key concepts in each subject area. If you can please encourage your child to engage with this. Details of this work will be explained to each class and will be posted on either Satchel:One or within Office 365 platforms. We will be reporting to you in autumn on how effectively your child has engaged with this work.

Encouraging your child to read

GCSE examinations have an average reading age of 15 years and 7 months. Sadly, we have some students in school with reading ages significantly lower than this. If your child cannot read well, they will struggle to access course content from Year 10 onwards. As parents, one of the key things that you can do to help your child succeed in school is to encourage them to read. If you are struggling

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with ideas for books, this [link](#) takes you to suggested reading lists for students in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Relaunch of Satchel:One

From September we will be relaunching Satchel:One (previously known as Show My Homework). This system has improved considerably. As well as homework, it now allows parents to track attendance, behaviour points and rewards. From September, we will be encouraging all parents who have not yet done so to download and engage with the Satchel:One app.

Farewells

At the end of this term we say farewell to a number of teaching staff. Mr Adams, our Head of Humanities will be leaving the school to take up a position at a school in Montenegro. Mr Hughes, one of our IT teachers will be leaving Freddie's to work for a software development company. And finally, after 36 years at Freddie's, Mr Dunning will be retiring as a science teacher. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing each of these members of staff well for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the vast majority of parents for their continued support and understanding throughout these difficult times. I would also like to thank and commend all of your children. In spite of the many challenges thrown at them they have remained focused, positive, polite and hard working. I wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Davies', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Davies

Headteacher