



2 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you all had a pleasant summer and that you and your families have reached the end of the school holidays in good health and positive spirits. It has been an exciting day on site today with all staff engaged in an action packed inset day whilst our dedicated testing team have conducted over 200 tests for Sixth Form students in advance of their return to school next week. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort tomorrow for their first official day as students of Heanor Gate Spencer Academy and students from other year groups over the coming week in accordance with our advertised staggered start.

With society returning ever more to some form of 'normal' and the change of rules around isolation for close contacts, we wanted to remind you as parents about the protocols around COVID-19 for schools moving forward.

All responsibility for track and tracing now lies with the NHS track and trace service and not us as a school. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test must isolate for ten days (as has been the case previously) from the first day of showing symptoms or from the date of the test if asymptomatic.

From August 16 anyone who is double jabbed or under the age of 18 no longer has to self-isolate if they are contacted by track and trace as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. Instead anyone traced as a close contact should book and take a PCR test as soon as possible. Assuming this test returns negative and the person is well, they can continue with daily routines, including coming to school. The person does not need to isolate whilst waiting for results of their PCR test unless they show symptoms or feel unwell.

All children will be tested onsite twice over the course of the next fortnight. Following this, students should resume home testing twice weekly, on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. This will continue to identify potential cases as early as possible and if a student tests positive on a LFT they should book a confirmatory PCR test and isolate until the result has been received.

All restrictions around bubbles, mask wearing etc. have all now ended in line with government guidelines. Whilst we appreciate this is largely a positive thing, we have already seen a large rise in cases amongst the student population before the return to school. Therefore on return to school students will be reminded that many of the routines from before the summer (regular testing, good hand hygiene, promoting the wearing of masks in crowded spaces, respecting people's personal space etc.) are all things that will support our school population to stay healthy moving forward.

For more information around the updated guidelines for close contacts please follow the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-removed-for-double-jabbed-close-contacts-from-16-august>



As a school community we have supported each other incredibly well throughout the pandemic. There is still much uncertainty around what the months ahead may bring for education: examinations, potential local outbreaks, vaccination proposals for young people etc. However, as with everything, as we move forward into a new unknown period, we hope our close working relationships can continue and that we once again thrive throughout the next academic year.

If you have any questions please contact your child's Achievement Leader / Assistant Achievement Leader.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Mr S Huntington in black ink.

**Mr S Huntington**  
**Executive Principal**

Handwritten signature of Mr M Jones in black ink.

**Mr M Jones**  
**Senior Vice Principal**