

Dear Parent,

12th July 2021

Re: Updates and plans for the end and start of term

May I begin by thanking you for your support. We have taken this challenging year and helped each other get through. We have a wonderful school community which has come together in so many ways to keep us all keeping on!

At this time of year we are normally enjoying the run in to the Summer holidays with the half term punctuated by celebration assemblies, performances and sports days. It serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of the wider school curriculum, activities which take place in the extended school day which we have taken for granted in previous years.

Apologies for the length of this letter but we have much to organise before we break for the Summer.

Year 6 transition event success

I'm delighted to say that despite the logistical challenges we were able to welcome our new starters to the school in an outdoor based transition activity day. We had the full compliment of weather to accompany us but despite the wind and rain, the students had a fantastic experience. We look forward to them joining us in September as our new Year 7.

Thank you and good luck

We say goodbye to a number of our staff later next week and I wanted to publicly say thank you for their dedication and hard work and wish them all the best for future plans. I will write to you in September to introduce our new colleagues joining us.

Thank you to:

Mrs Wanstall	Reception	Mr Sutton	Science
Mr Hough	Site Manager	Mr Tetlow	English
Mr Levitski	Science	Mrs Dutoy	Mathematics
Mr Dickinson	Science	Mrs Williams	Aspire
Miss Parker	Physical Education	Mrs Paul	Humanities

End of term arrangements

In terms of timings for the end of term, we will close for students at 1240 on Tuesday 20th July. Students are expected to be in full Academy uniform as normal. Students who normally have a free school meal will have a packed lunch made for them to take away.

Start of term arrangement

In September, the opening arrangements are:

Wednesday 1st September: INSET day for staff.

Thursday 2nd September: Year 7 in at 0840
Year 11 in at 1000

Friday 3rd September: All year groups in at 0840

Monday 6th September: All students in as normal at 840

Lateral flow testing for returning students

The added complication this year is the instruction from government for all students to take two Lateral Flow Tests at the beginning of term. If this changes in August we will write to you with updated dates but at as things stand the arrangements are below:

Location: Sports Hall (please come via the entrance connected to the Sports Hall)

Wednesday 1st September: Year 7 from 9am until 11am
Year 11 from 1130am until 1230pm

Thursday 2nd September: Year 8 from 9am until 1030am
Year 9 from 11am until 12pm
Year 10 from 1230pm until 130pm

Students will be expected to administer the tests themselves in the Sports Hall and leave once the test is completed. We will contact parents if the test registers as positive.

As, I'm sure you seen in the news, there are changes to how we operate as a school from September regarding Covid-19 guidance. To summarise, the key changes for students are:

- 'Bubbles' will not be used and students will be able to mingle between year groups at social times
- Only students who test positive for Covid-19 will be asked to isolate. Contact tracing in the vast majority of cases will be completed through the Track and Trace service, not school, meaning that close contacts groups of students will not be asked to isolate as they have been this academic year.
- Masks will not be required in communal areas or classrooms
- We will look at classroom ventilation which may require some flexibility in the uniform policy as we go into Winter. More to follow.

We are pleased that the guidance has changed as I know both as Headteacher and as a father what a huge impact periods of isolation have had on our children's education and mental health. Some students have endured multiple periods of isolation during the year which has been a situation none of us want to find ourselves in next year.

As ever, the landscape has and will continue to shift as we adapt to new guidance and policy. We will endeavour to keep you informed as we go through the year.

Contact tracing- after the 19th of July

Up until the 19th of July you can contact us through the normal avenue of emailing covid@macclesfieldacademy.org to let us know about a positive LFT or PCR Covid test. From the 19th of July the email hotline will then be closed as we move into a new era of passing contact tracing to NHS Track and Trace.

Reporting and Assessment

Parents will receive a report from school before the end of term. There are a number of changes for this year, namely

- We are strictly not allowed to report Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) to Year 10 parents. There will be grades for English, Maths and Science following the recent Year 10 mock examinations
- Parents for children in year 7-9 will not receive examination or assessment grades this year. As a school our stance has been to reintegrate the students into classroom routines, using informal in class 'assessment for learning' rather than higher stakes formal assessments. This decision was made to reduce the pressure put on students as we return to normal and to inform our classroom practice and inform our responsive teaching in light of knowledge gaps discovered through questioning and low stakes testing.
- As a school we pride ourselves in our high student attendance figures. However, reporting attendance this year would not be fair to students who have been isolating and therefore we will not be reporting on attendance this year.

Examination results day and appeals

Our Year 10 and Year 11 students will be receiving their Teacher Assessed Grades on Thursday 12th August. Students are welcome to come into school from 930am until 11am to collect their results slips. Any students who do not attend will have their results posted home. If you can't attend the results day and require an email copy, please ask your child to contact our examinations officer Mr Snowball at steve.snowball@macclesfieldacademy.org to arrange this. Please note that only the students can collect the results and we cannot hand them over to parents without student consent.

Any appeals on gradings will need to be initiated by students themselves. There will be an appeal form to complete on the school website. As none of our students are seeking to join University courses at this point, all of our appeals will be categorised as 'non urgent'. You will receive a receipt of your appeal on application and we will be in touch once term has restarted with further details. Please see the guidance previously sent to parents with more information on the appeals process.

And finally

May I thank you all for your warm welcome extended to me since Easter. The first term has seen a great deal of change and we firmly believe our school community will start to see the benefits as we begin our journey to being recognised as an outstanding school which sets only the highest standards for itself and all our staff and students. We believe we have made significant progress and hope that you feel reassured the school is making the improvements necessary whilst maintaining the core ethos of being a welcoming small school in which all children are known and valued.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank the governors for their wholehearted backing of the changes and investments we have made and most importantly our staff team, both teaching and nonteaching, who have relentlessly gone above and beyond to ensure our students get the best possible educational offer.

Wishing you and your families a restful and peaceful Summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,

Mat Galvin