



Smithdon High School
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Dear parents

Well, here we are on the penultimate day of term as I write this - sweltering but having a lot of fun! It has been an absolute delight to be able to watch the students having fun in their Curriculum Enhancement activities and talking with huge smiles about their trips to Pleasurewood Hills. It has been such a tough year for them - and I am mindful of those students who have had to isolate over these last days and have not been able to take part in the end of term celebrations that we have planned. I would like to reassure them that we have trips and activities planned throughout next year and there will be more opportunities for them to take part and get their moments of excitement too.

As we come to the end of term, we have so much to celebrate - not least the announcement on Monday that Smithdon has been selected as one of 50 schools in the country to receive an injection of funding for a brand new building. We are excited beyond reason for the potential this brings to further consolidate the progress the school has made in recent years - in spite of Covid - and to develop the children's education even further.

This half term alone, we were nominated for - and won! - a national award for the redevelopment of our school Library: the Education Business Awards - ICT Facility Award; we have been visited by the High Sheriff of Norfolk, looking into the effect of Covid on young people in the county; we have said goodbye to the Class of 2021, with their last day celebrations and, after a few weeks' delay, their end of school Prom; we've helped to raise money for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with an amazingly well-supported Fun Run day, and held an adapted Sports Day, to name just a few special events.

As we look forward to September - hopefully closer to what we know as 'normal' there are some key reminders and new information for me to share:

Covid-19 Update

Should any student test positive for Covid, who has been in school this week, between now and Saturday 24 July, please email head@smithdonhigh.org.uk immediately, including the best number to contact you on, so that we can complete contact tracing for students as soon as possible and ensure our community remain safe.

We are currently reviewing our Covid-19 protective procedures and will respond to any new Government guidance issued before our return in September, so we will contact you ahead of the new school year with any updates to this.

Times of the Day

- From September, as part of our push on attendance and punctuality, please note that the pedestrian gate will be locked from 8.25am, when all students should be on site, to ensure they are in their classrooms to begin tutor time promptly at 8.30am
- We are not returning to how our days were spread before:
 - Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) will have break at 10-10.20am, followed by period 2; and they will have lunch from 12.20-1pm, followed by period 4
 - Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) will have period 2 at 10am, followed by break at 11-11.20am; they will then have period 3 and 4, followed by lunch from 1.20-2pm
- All other times of the day (including a staggered exit from school at 3pm and 3.03pm) remain the same.

The Cambridge
Partnership

Graduate Teacher Programme



Maths &
Computing



Return to School

- **Year 7** will begin their term with us on **Monday 6 September** (Yr7 only in school, for a transition day)
- **Year 11** will begin their term on **Tuesday 7 September** (Yr7 & Yr11 only in school)
- **All remaining years will return to school on Wednesday 8 September**

- As per current guidance, we are required to put in place in-school LFT tests before the students return to class - 1 test before they come back and another once they are in school (3-5 days after the first). Further information will follow, but parents will need to book an appointment for the first tests and students will attend site for their test only. Second tests will take place in the normal school day, following their return to school. Home test kits will be issued from Wednesday 8 September onwards:
 - **Year 7** Test 1 - **Friday 3 September (am)**
 - **Year 11** Test 1 - **Friday 3 September (pm)**
 - **Year 10** Test 1 - **Monday 6 September (am)**
 - **Year 9** Test 1 - **Monday 6 September (pm)**
 - **Year 8** Test 1 - **Tuesday 7 September (pm)**

Covid LFT Home testing

- There is no requirement to continue testing during the summer holidays - though should you wish your child to continue, kits are available free of charge from Boots the Pharmacy and other places.
- As Year 7s will not have had to carry out LFTs before, we advise you to collect at least one of these kits, for students to have practiced and experienced it before coming in to complete their first in-school test on 3 September.

Uniform

Full school uniform, as per the uniform list, will be expected to be worn correctly from September - including proper school shoes, not trainers, and trousers which are fitted but not tight (for girls, we now stock grey fitted trousers in the school uniform shop, should you be struggling to find non-leggings/non-spray-on-like trousers).

Please also note that there has been no change in the school policy regarding visible piercings - while several of these have appeared under the masks being worn in school in recent weeks, these are not permitted to be worn in school (nor clear retainers) - or unusual hair colours. Please ensure your children are not wearing these piercings in September and that their hair is a natural colour - also, therefore, that any new piercings are carried out to enable the healing to have completed before we return to school and bright hair dyes to have been covered when we return. There will be no exceptions to this.

Thank you for your continued support all year and your engagement with so many aspects of your children's education. It only leaves me to wish you a relaxing and fun-filled summer - may this warm, sunny weather continue for as much of it as possible. We hope you all stay safe and well - and look forward to beginning a brand new school year in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School