



23 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have managed to have a restful and safe break. This letter contains more details for the start of term, including our arrangements for testing, the staggered return to school and arrangements in school for everyone's safe return.

### Testing & the Staggered Return

The government has allowed schools to stagger their return to enable them to accommodate the testing programme. By starting early, with Year 11 on the first Training Day, we hope to have everyone in the school by Wednesday 8 September. Testing will take place in the **Lower School Common Room**. Please see below for the timings. Please note that these are different tests, involving swabs being taken from both nostrils, rather than throat and one nostril as was the case with previous testing.

Day	In School	Year Group(s) Testing
Thursday 2 September	Staff	Year 11 from 10am – 1pm at a time which suits. Leave school site after test. No uniform required.
Friday 3 September	Staff	Year 10 from 10am – 1pm at a time which suits. Leave school site after test. No uniform required.
Monday 6 September	7 & Prefects	Year 9 from 10am – 1pm at a time which suits. Leave school site after test. No uniform required for Year 9. Year 7 from period 3 onwards.
Tuesday 7 September	7, 9, 10, 11	Year 11 test in school (Year 10 Catch-up)
Wednesday 8 September	All	Year 8 from registration onwards & remain school site after test. Year 10 test in school
Thursday 9 September	All	Year 8 Catch-up
Friday 10 September	All	Year 7 & 9 test in school
Monday 13 September	All	Year 8 test in school (Year 10 & 11 Catch-up)

From Tuesday onwards students should test twice a week **at home** on a Monday & Thursday, informing school of any positive tests either by telephone, 01507 522232 or via [admin@banovallumschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@banovallumschool.co.uk)

If any students in Years 10 & 11 cannot be in school on 2 and 3 September, please do not worry. We can test them on their return to school. Ideally, we would like to have as many from each year group tested as possible, but we do understand there may be transport issues. Consent is not required from existing students who have already consented. Students new to Banovallum should complete the online consent form which can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9kCh1dmdPU6dpvLJMsb7FtCleQ7J2R1Evi2yVKb4LfduMFoxU0s0TTRHQjBVWlpSUIUxNk83VjFXSSQIQCN0PWcu>

The Banovallum School  
 Boston Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire • LN9 6DA • Head Teacher: Mr G Edgar BA (Hons.), Dip. Ed.  
 Company No.8175402 • Tel: 01507 522232 • [www.banovallumschool.co.uk](http://www.banovallumschool.co.uk) • Email: [admin@banovallumschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@banovallumschool.co.uk)

## Track & Trace

Schools are no longer responsible for Track & Trace. However, I am sure we will continue to play some part in this process. The text below in italics is taken from the latest guidance.

*Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.*

*As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts.*

*Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.*

*Schools may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.*

*Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:*

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

*Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.*

*Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.*

## Return to School Measures

We hope to have as normal a return to school as possible, but we will be retaining one or two of last year's measures and reviewing them prior to the October half-term.

- There will be no bubbles or zoned areas – students will be free to mix across year groups
- Students will continue to sanitise their hands on entry to classrooms and the canteen
- Extra-curricular clubs and activities will resume
- We will continue to have movement outside the building, weather permitting
- Students should continue to assemble outside for their classes in the designated areas
- Lunch & break will continue in sittings
- On the days that students have PE, the students will be allowed to attend school in Banovallum PE kit.
- Although the guidance advises us to not to use face coverings, these will be **optional** for everyone inside the school building. If an individual feels more secure wearing a face covering, that will not be an issue.

Should we suffer a significant outbreak, we may have to revert to the measures from last year either in part or their entirety.

### **Uniform Expectations**

We will have our usual high uniform expectations. This means that hoodies, white socks and trainers instead of school shoes are not allowed. Please check the website for further guidance. On the days students have PE, they will be allowed to attend school in Banovallum PE kit. Following consultations with the students there is now a Banovallum PE hoody that can be worn with their PE kit. There is no obligation to purchase this.

I hope that this clarifies matters for you. Enjoy the rest of your break.

Yours faithfully

**G S Edgar**  
**Headteacher**

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