



July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

September 2021 Return to School Arrangements

Having now reached the end of the school year, I wanted to update you on our plans for reopening in September.

We will of course continue to monitor changing government guidance and provide further updates where necessary. Please read this information thoroughly and share with your child.

Return Dates

Firstly, to allow us to implement the latest lateral flow testing guidance, the following phased return will be in operation.

Year 7 Only – Monday 6th September (also 2nd Alton Towers Trip – see below)

Year 11 – Tuesday 7th September – PE Kit needed on first day

Year 10 – Wednesday 8th September

Years 8 and 9 – Thursday 9th September – PE Kit needed on first day

School Photographs will take place on Friday 10th September

We will be using the consent you provided earlier this year for in-school testing. Only email office@marshlandhigh.co.uk if you would like to change your consent. Our students have been amazing participating with the testing, and every session this year returned negative results (including for Alton Towers). We will continue to do everything we can to keep students, families and staff safe through the autumn term.

Uniform

All students should be in their full uniform every day, as outlined on our website, and bring their PE kit with them on the relevant day. Some students in years 8, 9 and 11 will need their PE kit on their first day back, so please ensure your child brings it with them.

Alton Towers – 6th September 2021

For those students unable to attend last week due to medical or self-isolation, the second Alton Towers Trip will be running for invited students with consent on Monday 6th September. If you have not yet received your consent form via 'Evolve', please email office@marshlandhigh.co.uk

COVID-19

Please see below important information on the latest advice for schools that we anticipate will apply in autumn term in relation to isolation and Track and Trace. At this stage face coverings and all other C-19 restrictions will not apply, including the revised split timetable and year group bubbles.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all students, families, and staff have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and their families a safe and restful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all on our return in September.

Yours faithfully

Mr Craig Jansen
Headteacher

HM Government - COVID-19 Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings -21st July 2021

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.

4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.