



16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope your child(ren) have had an enjoyable start to the summer holiday.

On 19 July the country is expected to move on to Step 4 of the Government's roadmap and further restrictions will be lifted. As the Prime Minister set out, this means that from that point most of the restrictions we have faced as a society in the last year-and-a-half will be removed, helping to minimise disruption to education. One of the key changes is that students will no longer be required to remain in year group or bubbles. Face coverings will also no longer be compulsory in schools and social distancing will no longer be necessary.

Of course, it is still necessary to be careful and that's why it remains essential that secondary pupils, teachers, staff and their families continue to test themselves for the virus and isolate if positive or if they have been in close contact with a positive case – but we will be able to see the end of year group of students in time for the autumn term.

Please find below frequently asked questions developed by the Department of Education for Secondary School students and their parents and carers to explain the changes to COVID safe measures in September:

### **Will secondary age pupils at schools and colleges have to stay in bubbles?**

No. Secondary school and college students won't have to stay in bubbles.

### **What about face coverings?**

Face coverings are no longer recommended in education settings. Headteachers may still wish to recommend pupils wear them and pupils themselves remain free to wear face coverings if they decide to. Staff and visitors are free to wear a face covering in communal areas if they wish to. It may be the case that, in the event of a significant outbreak, face coverings in schools will again be recommended.

At CGS we are risk assessing our narrow corridors and may need to continue to use face masks when moving around the inside of our building.

### **What happens to testing for all staff and students?**

Over the summer all staff, secondary school and college students should continue to test and report results online. You can test during the summer by ordering your free rapid Covid-19 tests online [nhs.uk/GetTested](https://nhs.uk/GetTested), or by picking them up at pharmacies.

You will continue to receive tests if you're attending summer schools, out of school activities based on education sites and settings that do not operate on a term time basis. In these cases, staff and students should continue to test twice weekly at home and it is important test results are reported regardless of whether they are positive, negative or void. This autumn asymptomatic testing will resume in secondary schools and colleges - including two tests in person on return – and continue until the end of September with a review at that point. It means apart from tests taken in person on the return to school, pupils will be expected to carry on testing themselves twice a week using LFD tests obtained online, through their school/college or via their local pharmacy.

Our [provisional plan](#) is to test all students on:

- Friday 3rd September and again on
- Monday 6th September

With all students returning to school as normal on Tuesday 7th September (years 7 and 12 having their Induction Days on Monday 6th September).

### **What if there is a positive case in a school?**

From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test & Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test & Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated.

### **What things will be staying the same?**

Guidance on hygiene measures, cleaning keeping classrooms well ventilated will remain, as will local contingency measures if there are significant outbreaks. These may require greater levels of isolation and community testing.

### **What if my child is clinically extremely vulnerable?**

Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable should attend school and college including out-of-school settings. If you are a parent or student and feeling are anxious about attendance, you should speak to school about your concerns and discuss whether any accommodations can be made to ensure that your child can regularly attend school.

Where a pupil or student is unable to attend because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, their school or college will be able to offer them access to remote education.

I will write again in the middle of August with further details of the autumn asymptomatic testing programme we put in place.

### **COVID-19 vaccinations and walk-in clinics**

Having both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine provides the best protection against the virus, and the options for you, your staff and parents to receive the vaccine in Bristol are increasing.

The NHS is regularly releasing details of walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics running across the area and no appointment is required. As well as the walk-in clinics, the NHS is also adding lots more bookings to the National Booking System or your GP will be in touch to offer you an appointment.

All the options for having the COVID-19 vaccine in Bristol, including details of the latest walk-in vaccination clinics, can be found on the Healthier Together website. Book your COVID-19 vaccination or attend a walk-in clinic - Healthier Together ([bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk](https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk))

We all have a responsibility to protect one another, and vaccination alongside regular testing are tools that can help us keep our city safe.

### **The Colston Statue – What next?**

The statue of Edward Colston was pulled down on 7 June 2020 during a Black Lives Matter protest in Bristol. One year on, the statue now forms part of a new display at M Shed to start a city-wide conversation about its future. The statue is on display alongside a selection of placards from the protest as well as a timeline of key events leading up to 7 June 2020. The M Shed invites you to tell them what you think about what happened that day and what you think should happen next. This is an opportunity to have your say on how we move forward together. You can learn more and fill out the survey by checking out the online exhibition and the survey: [Bristol Museums - The Colston Statue: What next?](#)

### **Reminder - Local Crisis and Prevention Fund**

The Bristol City Council Local Crisis Prevention Fund (LCPF) continues to accept claims for those returning to school who need assistance with food, school uniforms, shoes and stationery costs, in the form of supermarket vouchers. This grant will help children across Bristol adjust to going back into, or remaining a school environment, especially those from

lower income families or suffering loss of business and finances as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic. We hope that the financial help available will help overcome barriers to learning and improve school attendance.

They accept direct from parents and carers <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/lcpf>.

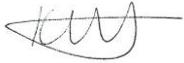
**Monkhouse Schoolwear, Stoke Gifford Store**

Unfortunately due to a positive covid-19 case the Stoke Gifford branch has had to close. The team will contact and re-arrange appointments with all parents who have booked during this period. They will open the store as soon as it is safe to do so. Their priority is the safety of colleagues and customers at all times. The website is available to all parents and carers to order at any time.

Good luck to all our year 13 and 11 students collecting their examination results on 10<sup>th</sup> (A level) and 12<sup>th</sup> (GCSE) August.

Have a lovely summer,

Best wishes



Mrs Kerry McCullagh  
Principal