

Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupils had the opportunity to access transition visits to the tutor groups they will be based in from September on Tuesday of this week. Before the visits, understandably, some pupils were a bit worried. After the visits many were feeling much more confident and excited about the forthcoming academic year 2021-22.

I have had to remind a minority of pupils about the role digital devices (including mobile phones) have in school. Some pupils face longer journeys to and from school and devices can support the travel time. The expectation has always been that these devices are then handed in on arrival for safe keeping and to avoid inappropriate use. Whilst this has not been an issue in school a minority of pupils have been allowed, up until now, to use their phones to access music to support their sensory needs. School has been very clear that phones are for this use only, however the temptation to use phones to access games, call home etc has been too great. Therefore, I have made the decision to revert back to the original policy. Pupils who benefit from accessing music will be able to do so through schools Spotify account. The use of mobile phones in schools is one of a number of areas being looked at by the Government as part of a review of behaviour in schools.

Recently I received information that Cheshire West and Chester have opened a '*Learning Disability and Autism Services Consultation (for Adults 16+)*'. The consultation runs from 22nd June- 16th August 2021. I have attached additional sources of information should you wish to become involved with the consultation. Your voice could be important to the review of services for young people.

Arrangements for September 2021

I am conscious that as we approach the end of term finalised recommendations from government have yet to materialise. The pandemic has presented schools, families and our communities with tremendous challenges. Some of our responses have had positive impacts on pupils in school and I aim to retain some of these practices such as the staggered arrival to school in the morning. I have listed below some key aspects of what school will look like from September.

Organisation

- Staggered arrival and departure time to school.
- Staggered break and lunch (Ks3) and (Ks4/5).
- One-way system in school will remain in operation.
- School pool will open during the day.
- P.E. changing rooms will open.
- Wearing of face masks- optional.
- Hand hygiene, 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' messages remain.

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Recommended

- Pupils access Lateral Flow Device tests as a one off on arrival to school in September.

I do not have information with regard to any arrangements that may be in place to offer pupils a vaccine. **Any offer of a vaccine will be with the consent of parents and carers.**

If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school from September, the current government proposal is that pupils identified as a close contact can take a PCR test. If it is negative they can return to school immediately and not isolate for 7 days. If a pupil is unable to take a PCR test, then the isolation period will need to be observed. A positive test will require a current isolation period of 10 days.

NOTE: These proposals will be confirmed as soon as I have the information.

Despite being a proud Welshman, I would like to wish England all the very best on Sunday and hope they get the result the country wants!



Yours faithfully,

**Mr McCann
Headteacher**