

Dear Parents & Carers,

Returning to school - Everything you need to know

We hope that this letter finds you safe and well and that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday.

We wanted to remind and update the return to school information that you will need for the start of the Autumn Term as we look forward to what we hope will be another successful year for the school, following our fantastic Bronze Award in the Pearson's Secondary School of the Year competition and the [excellent recent GCSE results this month](#). Every teacher in the school was extraordinarily proud of those young people as they collected and celebrated their results.

Working together over the next year

The past 17 months has, as we know, been an extremely disruptive period for everyone but we have endeavored to ensure that the negative impact on learning has been restricted as far as possible. Our task now, in partnership with our families, is to do everything that we can to ensure the children who need to catch up and get to where they should be academically can achieve this. As your Headteacher, I going to take every possible action to make this happen. My whole team will be focussed on this.



September return to school - what to now expect

We will be returning to a number of our pre-covid regulations following advice from the government:

- The need for year groups to be kept in bubbles is no longer a requirement from the government and so students will be able to access all of the facilities and classrooms for their subjects.
- Students will all begin the day at 8.40am and end at 3.30pm with the staggered start and finish times coming to an end.
- All students will enter through the main gate and exit out of Belling Crescent.

Covid testing in September – help us keep school a safe place and open

After the summer break the government have asked all secondary students to undertake two COVID-19 tests in school in the first week back. This will then be replaced by the testing at home by

the second week of term. We all need to stay safe and avoid having to close classes or year groups and resuming home learning.

If you have already signed the consent form for the testing that was completed this year you do not need to sign it again. If you have not signed the consent form previously or you are the parent or carer of a student who joined us after testing, please sign the consent form using the link here: <https://forms.gle/SSAPDYqGAjcTi1UJ8>

Under guidance, students will self-administer the test themselves. This is a nose and throat swab and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in the school with results available in around 30 minutes. A second test is then carried out three days later.

NHS Guidance will be available in the school and at the dedicated testing sites. The guidance is also available at the following web link: - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How to do your test COVID 19 instruction leaflet for schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf)

You can also watch staff and students who took part in a pilot talking about their testing at the following direct web link: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zqk1mhdtys&feature=youtu.be>

If the lateral flow test result is negative, the parent will not be contacted.

The two Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) will not be compulsory. However, we strongly recommend that students undertake the tests in order to ensure that we are keeping the students, staff and families at Heron Hall safe.

Return to school - arrangements in detail

Students will begin to return to school from Friday 3rd September. On the first day back in school they will test and return home once this has been done. It is likely that they will only be in school for around 30 minutes on this day.

If they are negative, then they will come into school on the following day.

Year Group	First Test Date (Come into school to test and return home)	First Day of Lessons (If negative / not testing)
7	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September
8	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
9	Wednesday 8 th September	Thursday 9 th September
10	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September
11	Friday 3 rd September	Monday 6 th September

The reason for this order is to allow those students in the exam years to return earlier whilst also giving students who are in Year 7 time on Monday 6th when there will be fewer students in school.

Please see the timings below for specific timings for each form on the above days.

Year Group & Date	Specific Timings
Year 7 (Friday 3 rd September)	7E, 7Q, 7U – 9.30-10.30am 7A, 7L – 10.30am-11.15am 7I, 7T, 7Y – 11.30am-12.30pm
Year 8 (Monday 6 th September)	8E, 8Q, 8U – 9.30-10.30am 8A, 8L – 10.30am-11.15am 8I, 8T, 8Y – 11.30am-12.30pm
Year 9 (Wednesday 8 th September)	9E, 9Q, 9U – 9.30-10.30am 9A, 9L – 10.30am-11.15am 9I, 9T, 9Y – 11.30am-12.30pm
Year 10 (Monday 6 th September)	10E, 10Q, 10U, 10A – 1.15pm-2.15pm 10L, 10I, 10T, 10Y – 2.15pm-3.15pm
Year 11 (Friday 3 rd September)	All students between 1.15pm-3.15pm

School uniform

Any parents who are not sure of the school's uniform expectations can find out full information [here](#).

Smart phones

Can I remind families that I wrote to all parents last May to highlight and give advance notice that at the start of this academic year, all smart phones would be banned from the school premises. The only phones that will now be allowed in the school will be phones without smart technologies.

Welcome to our Year 7 families

Let us also offer a very warm Heron Hall Academy welcome to our new Year 7 families and wish them and their children every success in the future. We hope they will soon feel a part of the Heron Hall family.

Stay in touch with all the latest school news

Finally, you can follow us on social media [here](#) and through our website [here](#).

Yours Sincerely,

Mr A Barzey
Headteacher
Heron Hall Academy