



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education has issued new COVID-19 guidance for schools effective from Monday 19th July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from that same date.

This letter provides you with an update on what this means for students at Tavistock College from 19th July, should these plans go ahead.

As our last day of school is 23rd July, in line with guidance, we will be maintaining all of the control measures we currently have in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. We will also expect students and staff to continue to wear face coverings until the end of term inside our buildings.

The only change you should be aware of is the issue of contact-tracing. Schools will only be responsible for contact-tracing until Sunday 18th July. From Monday 19th July, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.

After the end of summer term, the following changes will be in place, in line with the new guidance:

- **Bubble system:** It will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles. This means that if your child will be taking part in any summer provision, such as summer schools or activity camps, they will not be bubbles. It also means that there will no longer be a bubble system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.
- **Self-isolation for children and young people:** From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- **Face coverings:** From the start of the Autumn Term, face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. From Step 4, face coverings are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college and are no longer legally required on public transport.

Please see the full [guidance](#) for further details.

Although there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plan in place, as required by the Government, to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These will mean that if the situation requires it, a bubble system or other measures may need to be temporarily reinstated in the future, and we must stress that the safety measures in place will be continually reviewed and assessed in accordance with Government and local guidance.

As outlined by the DFE guidance for the return to school in September ' As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Settings may stagger the

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return of pupils across the first week to manage this. Pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed'

Therefore, a staggered start will be used enabling all pupils to undertake lateral flow tests upon their return to school, similar to the staggered return to school on the 8th March this year. The dates students will be returning are;

Tuesday 7th September - Year 7, Year 12 & 13

Wednesday 8th September - Year 10 & Year 11

Thursday 9th September - Year 8 & 9

Prior to your son/daughter being tested on site. A consent form and more details on timings will follow before the end of term

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tristan Muller-Forster', written in a cursive style.

Mr Tristan Muller-Forster
Associate Principal