



26th August 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Carers,

Re: New Academic Year and Information on Testing in the Autumn Term

I hope you and your family have kept well over the summer holidays and have spent some quality time with your loved ones. We are looking forward to welcoming our new students to De Salis and to extending our warmest greetings to all of them on Friday the 3rd September 2021.

Start and finish times are set out below for the new academic year:

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Year 9	8:45am	4:00pm (Optional 5:00pm on Tuesdays)
Year 10	8:45am	5:00pm
Year 11	8:45am	5:00pm

Our after-college clubs will resume on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:00pm as of Tuesday 7th September. We will supply you with more information regarding this, next week.

Due to the bank holiday as well as our teachers training days, the week will be set out as follows:

Monday 30th August – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 31st August – Years 10 and 11 to attend

Wednesday 1st September – Teachers training day

Thursday 2nd September – Teachers training day

Friday 3rd September – Years 9, 10 and 11 to attend

If you have any queries about the use of **ipayimpact** for school meals and purchasing college uniform, please contact me via the channels listed below.

Parent partnership is important to us so please ensure that you have thoroughly read our website regarding our focus and how you can further support our students at home. Learning is vital, but the health and wellbeing of our school community is also paramount

Given the current uncertainties around the Covid-19 situation, the Government wants to help schools and colleges to be prepared for all scenarios when term starts after the summer holidays. This means that secondary schools have to set up Asymptomatic Test Sites (ATS) on site from the start of the autumn term and, therefore, have a staggered start to term, as was the case when we returned to school-based learning after the lockdown in March.

Students will be offered two Lateral Flow tests on the College site, spaced 3-4 days apart, at the start of the autumn term. This will help to identify cases of COVID-19 and stop transmission to support the return to college – particularly as most students will not be testing over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing. Students will be able to return to face-to-face teaching as long as their first test is negative.

For Year 10 and 11, the first test will take place the morning of **Tuesday 31st August**, Year 9 and 12, will take place during the morning of **Friday 3rd September**, and Year 13 on **Monday the 6th September** as listed on the tables below. Our

expectation is that all students will take the test. Normal face-to-face lessons will then begin for students after they receive a negative test result on the day of testing, except for Year 13s who will resume their lessons on **Tuesday 7th September**. If you have not already provided us with consent, could you please access the link and do so at your earliest convenience. <https://trhat.co.uk/letter-covidlateraltest/>

Please note:

- Students will not come to college until their first test is scheduled – please note the arrangements below.

Testing arrangements:

It is extremely important that students are on time as we have to conduct a lot of tests in a limited period of time.

Year Group	First Test Date	Time
Year 9	Friday 3 rd September	9:00am
Year 10	Tuesday 31 st August	9:00am
Year 11	Tuesday 31 st August	10:00am
Year 12	Friday 3 rd September	10:00am
Year 13	Monday 6 th September	9:00am

Students should arrive at the above time to the De Salis reception, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing at all times.

Students will be asked to enter the test centre where they will be registered, and then take the test itself.

Once they have taken their test, they will attend their form class where they will participate in form time activities. The year 13 students will be asked to leave the College site, continuing to maintain social distancing at all times, after being tested and having received their timetables, to resume their lessons the following day, **Tuesday 7th September 2021**.

We will only notify you if your child's test is positive, if not you can assume the result was negative.

The second tests for all students will take place during normal college hours during the week beginning Monday 6th September (students will be in college and will be brought down from their lesson).

COVID – 19 contact tracing and isolation

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

One of the key changes is that schools and colleges 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, guardians or carers of the positive case to identify close contacts.

Self-isolating and taking a test

If your child has symptoms, they must self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, your child should self-isolate – and you should inform the College. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons).

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Students aged under 18 years 6 months who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend college as normal.

As a final note, could I please remind you that students **should not** come into college if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. This testing programme is for individuals with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support and we look forward to welcoming our students back for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Donning

Assistant Principal