

10 June 2021



**Fairfield  
High School**

*Achieving Excellence*

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Fairfield High School – FHS

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Update on: End of Term arrangements for Term 6; Warm weather preparations; Arrangements for Term 1 2021/22; Follow-up to “Free Palestine” student demonstration; Letter from Bristol City Council / Public Health about importance of continued COVID home testing**

Firstly, apologies for such a long update but, as is the way sometimes, a lot of information needs sharing at once.

**End of Term arrangements for Term 6**

As I write this, we are still not certain of whether any of the COVID controls that are in place for schools will change before the end of Term. We are getting so close to the end of term now that making further changes, before September, may well be counter-productive. Whilst there is uncertainty, I can say that we are intending to maximize the creative and sporting opportunities for students at the end of term. Subject to unlocking, our Summer Gala is in the advanced planning stages, and I know the PE faculty are arranging end of Term house sporting events.

Summer Term ends on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, and as is traditional, we will be dismissing students at 1.30pm on that day. Lunches will be available for students.

**Warm weather preparations**

As you may be aware we are expecting an extended period of warmer weather. Whilst most students are coming to school well prepared, can I ask that you check that your child is bringing in adequate drinking water and / or a suitable water bottle and that they have sun cream with them (or have pre applied it). Should temperatures be forecast to consistently go above 25 degrees we will implement our hot weather plan. It's also worth reminding parents that smart, tailored uniform shorts are an optional part of our uniform.

## Arrangements for Term 1 2021/22 – starting back in September

Whilst the impact of COVID for September stays uncertain we have started making plans. As a Senior Leadership Team we are reviewing the changes that have happened in school due to COVID and can see that some have had positive impacts and we may well want to keep. An example of this has been the staggered end to the school day which has meant much less traffic congestion in our neighborhood and a less busy dismissal for students. It's been nice to get students input on this too. Whatever we decide with any changes we will keep you informed as always.

In this section I also want to give you early advance notice of our return to school arrangements.

The new school year starts on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. This day and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September will be INSET days and the school is closed to students to allow staff training.

Our new Year 7 and Year 11 (currently Year 10) students will return to school at 8.30am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September for induction sessions.

All other students will restart on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30am

### Follow up to “Free Palestine” student protest

I thought I would report back that whilst most students remained in lessons, those that chose to protest did so in a cooperative manner with staff who were there to supervise and ensure safety.

On an additional positive note, we will be liaising with a non-partisan organisation called “Solutions not Sides” ([Home | SNS \(solutionsnotsides.co.uk\)](http://Home | SNS (solutionsnotsides.co.uk))) to promote a wider and balanced approach to education around the situation in the region. This is expected to lead to a range of workshops for students, which we know will be welcomed.

We are aware that a few individuals didn't behave appropriately, which is disappointing given the maturity with which others have engaged in the issues. We are aware of who those people are from CCTV footage and we will be addressing breaches of our behaviour code with them directly.

**Finally...**below my signature please find a direct letter to parents from Bristol City Council/ Public Health about the importance of continued home testing. Please keep that going.

Best wishes

Nick Lewis

Principal

### An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**  
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**Dear families,**

In light of an increased level of cases of COVID-19 in our schools, which includes a number of cases of the Delta variant first identified in India (VOC-21APR-02, lineage B.1617), we are taking great care to track, trace and contain infection in line with our Local Outbreak Management Plan and national public health guidance.

National Public Health guidance has not changed, however, we encourage families to be extra vigilant during this time. It is really important that we do everything we can to make sure there is no additional risk to the wider community. We are responding to an ever-evolving situation which means our Public Health teams must act quickly, effectively and flexibly.

It is so important at this time of gradual 'unlocking' and with a new variant in circulation, that we all follow these four key steps:

1. Secondary school students should continue to **carry out twice weekly lateral flow (rapid) testing**; this helps us to identify positive cases of the virus where people have no symptoms.
2. We encourage families to make full use of facilities across Bristol to **carry out twice weekly lateral flow (rapid) testing**; parents, carers and guardians can collect tests from local pharmacies, Bristol collection sites or by ordering on GOV.UK.
3. If you or your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or get a positive lateral flow (rapid) test result, **you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test**.
4. Anyone who is self-isolating because they have been in close contact with someone who's tested positive, **should also book a PCR test** to check whether they were also infected – however, they will still have to self-isolate for the full 10 days if they have a negative result.
5. As ever, if children are not feeling well, **please consider carefully whether they need to be kept home**, and if they or other family members develop COVID symptoms whilst at home, arrange a test.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

About 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. This is why lateral flow (rapid) testing is very important.

We have been encouraged by the uptake of lateral flow (rapid) testing by school children, families, parents, carers and guardians to date and want to thank everyone who continues to participate.

This form of testing is quick, free and helps to pick up positive cases of the virus where people have no symptoms and are highly infectious. By identifying these positive cases early on, we can quickly enable people to self-isolate and cut off the chain of transmission.

It is very important that everyone is extra vigilant in light of these rising infection rates. As ever, if children are not feeling well, please consider carefully whether they need to be kept at home.

Thank you once again for your patience, flexibility, and sacrifice during this challenging time.

For more information about how and where to get lateral flow (rapid) tests, [visit the local authority website](#).

If you have symptoms and need to book a PCR test, [visit GOV.UK](#).

Support is on offer through the We Are Bristol helpline for anyone who needs emergency assistance getting food, medicines or guidance about financial support to self-isolate. Call 0800 694 0184 for free if you need help.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school.

**Christina Gray, Director for Communities and Public Health**

**Alison Hurley, Director for Education and Skills**