



**Fairfield
High School**

Achieving Excellence

Allfoxton Road

Horfield

Bristol

BS7 9NL

Tel: 0117 952 7100

www.fairfield.excalibur.org.uk

enquiries@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk



Twitter @FHSBristol



Fairfield High School – FHS

Principals Update: Changes to start of term in September 2021; Government Guidance for Parents on Schools after Step 4

Dear Parents/carers

This letter contains important information about changes to school for September. Please read it fully. It explains improvements to the school for Term 1 and our priorities for next year.

Guidance for parents on changes following Step 4.

The key changes identified by the government are:

- At Step 4 and after the end of the summer term, it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision (for example, summer school) or in schools from the autumn term.
- Schools and settings will only need to do contact tracing up to 18th July 2021. From 19th July 2021 (Step 4), close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and not by school. Cases should continue to be reported to us, but we will no longer be identify close contacts from the 18th July.
- From 16 August 2021, 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.
- From step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, 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.
- Before returning to school in September students should take two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests at the school Asymptomatic Testing Station (ATS). This will be the same process as on return to school in March.

Full parental guidance can be found by clicking this link:

[What Parents and Carers Need To Know - Govt](#)

Frequently asked questions:

Will secondary age pupils at schools and colleges have to stay in bubbles?

No. Secondary school and college students will not have to stay in bubbles.

What if there is a positive case at school?

From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test & Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test & Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

What things will be staying the same?

Guidance on hygiene measures, cleaning keeping classrooms well ventilated will remain, as will local contingency measures if there are significant outbreaks. These may require greater levels of isolation and community testing. This will be advised by local Public Health Officials and the school will have a contingency plan in place.

What if my child is clinically extremely vulnerable?

Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable should attend school and college including out-of-school settings.

If you are a parent or student and feeling are anxious about attendance, you should speak to school about your concerns to find a way forward.

Where a pupil or student is unable to attend because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, we will be to be able to offer them access to remote education.

Changes to start of term in September 2021.

Following the issuing of the latest government guidance we are having to alter our planned start of year to allow the full testing of students twice, in person, before return to school. The revised start dates are:

Monday 6th September: School closed for testing. Year 11 and Year 7 invited in at pre-arranged time for COVID test. Full details to follow.

Tuesday 7th September: School closed for testing. Year 10, 9, and 8 invited in at pre-arranged time for COVID test. Full details to follow.

Wednesday 8th September: Year 11 and Year 7 only - return to school at 8.30 am for a normal school day.

Thursday 9th September: School fully open. All students arrive at 8.30am.
Second test for Year 11 and Year 7.

Friday 9th September: School fully open. All students arrive at 8.30am. Second test for Year 10, 9 and Year 8.

As you are aware the school is closed on Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September. We will now also have use this time to set up our testing station and retrain staff.

Changed dismissal times in September.

In September we will be adjusting the dismissal time of students from the times used this year. We have seen real benefits to not dismissing the whole school at once, not least less congestion on the roads around the school and improved road safety.

The new dismissal times for September are:

Year 7 and Year 11 will leave school at **3.25pm**

Year 10, Year 9, and Year 8 will leave school at **3.15pm**

Changes to school zones and planned improvements for September

In September we will be adjusting our zones for break and lunch times and entry to school.

Year 7 will continue to have a separate zone, to support transition, as has been in place for the last 5 years. We are following up this year's extensive landscaping with additional seating and tables and improvements to the playground surface, including the installation of hoops for sports. Year 7 will have dedicated food serving area, serving both hot and cold meals available for preordering. Following feedback, the focus will be on healthy, varied "Street food" style menu choices from a variety of cultures.

During wet lunch Year 7 will be using the Year 7 under covered area and our canteen space.

Year 7 will enter the school in the morning at the rear of the sports hall. At break and lunch, they will enter at the rear of the atrium.

Year 9 and 8 will share a much larger zone, including access to new playground facilities and a new dedicated food pod, serving food as above. Further landscaping is planned for this zone, including stepped terraced seating incorporating raised beds.

During wet lunch Year 9 will be based in our Sports Hall and Year 8 will be based in our Drama and Dance Studios

Year 10 and Year 11 will share a combined area at the front of the school that has the recently installed outdoor gym, raised bed seating and tensile structure. Based on student feedback we will be installing additional tables and seating. Students will be served lunches as above from the Atrium area.

During wet lunch Year 10 and 11 will be based in our Atrium.

All students will get opportunities to mix with other year groups via our house system which is used for a variety of planned events throughout the year as well as during mixed year group clubs at lunch and afterschool.

Afterschool and Lunchtime Clubs; Trip and Visits

We are planning that these activities can fully recommence from Term 1 onwards with our full range of pre pandemic activities being offered. As ever, this relies on both staff and student uptake to be in place for events to happen. Full details will become available in Term 1.

Uniform

From September our standard uniform policy will be in place, with full information on the website. We have kept the expectation that on days when students have games, they should arrive in school in their PE kit. We have reviewed the wording of our uniform policy to aid readability and clarity, and this will be shared with parents before September. There are no substantive changes, and we will be looking for high standards of uniform from the start of the year.

School improvement Priorities

For next year the school and our governors have identified the following headline priorities for our students and staff and as always, we see community involvement being central too:

All students can thrive and excel.

Our exceptional curriculum works

We change our world.

Ambitious leadership is open to all.

People are well informed how to succeed and work smarter.

Within these priorities we have a commitment to addressing the climate crisis, gender and race inequalities and overcoming social disadvantage. We will continue to champion inclusivity and diversity and celebrate and share our successes with others.

We have always focused on helping our students progress their learning from their starting points each term and as we enter this new phase of education, we will be continuing making full use of opportunities such as the National Tutoring Programme and bespoke support for individuals that need it.

Best wishes

Nick Lewis

Principal

An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**

Excalibur Academies Trust: a company limited by guarantee

Registered in England: Company Number: 08146633

Registered Office: Granham Hill, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4AX

