

27th August 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well and that you have had some relaxation this summer. I write this as the summer holidays draw to a close with excitement about our start of term and I hope this is shared by our students. I would like to warmly welcome them back, particularly to our new Year 7 students; some of whom I have enjoyed meeting this week in the summer camp.

I am really looking forward to meeting students on our return to school and I will be holding assemblies across the first few days back in school for all students.

In this, my first letter to you, I would like to start by saying I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the new Principal for The Chalfonts Community College. I have experienced a very warm welcome from all. I would like to thank Mr Denial for his strong leadership of the school and his support to ensure a smooth transition for the school. I consider it a privilege to take over as Principal in a strong position for the next steps in the success of our school. I would like to commend our dedicated staff for the way in which they have responded to the challenges of the past 18 months during the pandemic.

I am optimistic for our return to school this term now that restrictions on many aspects of life have been removed. I am looking forward to students having the benefit of being taught in specialist classrooms again and being able to move around the school site. Both in schools and other aspects of life we have had to be very flexible and adapt plans accordingly. This letter is longer than normal because of the need to inform you about important arrangements for the start of term as follows:

Start of term arrangements

There will be a phased start for the first week as follows:

The term will start for students in Years 7 and 12 on Thursday 2nd September and for all other year groups on Monday 6th September. Please note that timetables will be issued during tutor time on these days and that the week beginning Monday 6th September will be a Week B.

Wednesday 1st September Staff training day
No students in school (other than those taking LFT tests)

Thursday 2nd September Year 7 and Year 12 students in school

Friday 3rd September Year 7 and Year 12 students in school

Monday 6th September All students in school



Lateral Flow Testing in school

The government has asked schools to give students two lateral flow tests on their return to school in September. There have been some changes to the scheduling of tests than was from the dates sent to you on 16th July.

Please check the date and time your child is required to come to the school for their test below.

Wednesday 1st September			
Surnames:	A-H	I-P	Q-Z
Year 12 and Year 13	9:00-9:45am	9:45-10:20am	10:50 – 11:30am
Year 11	12:30 – 1:15pm	1:15-2:00pm	2:00 – 2:45pm
Thursday 2nd September			
Year 8	9:00-9:45am	9:45-10:20am	10:50 – 11:30am
Year 9	12:30 – 1:15pm	1:15-2:00pm	2:00 – 2:45pm
Friday 3rd September			
Year 12* and Year 13	9:00-9:45am	9:45-10:20am	10:50 – 11:30am
Year 11	12:30 – 1:15pm	1:15-2:00pm	2:00 – 2:45pm

*Year 12 are in school on this day for sixth form induction

Students in Year 8, 9, 10, 11 & 13 are to come into school via the Leisure Centre entrance – come through to the LRC and be collected straight after their LFT so that there is no contact with any other students/staff on site.

Year 7 will have their first test on Friday 3rd September when they are in school. This will be the first LFT that Year 7 will have in school and staff will ensure students feel well supported.

We appreciate that not every student will be able to make these scheduled times and we ask that you let us know if this is not possible by email to our Medical Administrator sherrylscott@chalfonts.org. In order to maintain the safety and welfare of our school community, we strongly recommend that students attend school to ensure that they have the LFD test in a controlled environment.

Parents of Year 7 students will be sent forms to provide consent for your child to have a Lateral Flow Test in school. Parents of students in other year groups will have provided consent before and it is not necessary to send a new consent form. If you no longer wish to provide consent for your child to be tested please email our Medical Administrator sherrylscott@chalfonts.org

The second test for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will follow in the first full week and only impact on one lesson. It is really important for us that these very necessary tests take place without any more interruptions to learning.

Staff and students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Update on COVID-19 measures in school

The current government guidance to schools outlines the actions schools should take to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school in line with step 4 of the government's response to the pandemic. Our priority as a school is to deliver face to face, high quality education whilst keeping students and staff as safe as possible.

It is no longer necessary to keep students in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means assemblies will resume and students will be taught in specialist classrooms across the school again.

Hand hygiene is still an important measure to reduce the risk of in school transmission and we encourage students to continue to clean their hands regularly.

We will ensure the school is well ventilated. We will need to balance the need for ventilation and a comfortable temperature for students and as the weather inevitably becomes colder later this term, students may be encouraged to wear warm base layers.

Schools will no longer be required to carry out contact tracing. In the event of a student testing positive NHS Test and Trace will identify close contacts. Contacts in school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the person who has tested positive specifically identifies the individual as a close contact. Students who are contacted by NHS Test and Trace will be advised to take a PCR test. We encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so in order to limit the risk of in-school transmission. The School may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts. We will maintain the use of seating plans in lessons to assist NHS Test and Trace with their contact tracing if needed.

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends wearing a face covering in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. We will continue to permit the use of face coverings if a student or member of staff wishes to wear one.

In the event of an outbreak we will implement contingency measures and act in line with advice from Public Health England. I will keep you informed of this if we experience this.

Final words...

I am looking forward to working with staff, governors, students and parents in the coming months to provide our students with a high quality school experience and enable them all to succeed in every way.

From my experience, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working well together and I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Thank you for the support you have given the school and I look forward to working closely with you over the next academic year. Parents and carers make an important contribution to children's achievements at school, and I want to further develop the relationship between the school and home for the benefit of everyone.

I hope you enjoy the remaining days of the school holiday and I look forward to seeing students next week.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

