

10th September 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school after the summer holidays. It has been fantastic to see students return to school this week. I have enjoyed personally welcoming students back to school in assemblies this week and it has been amazing to see such high levels of positivity from students and staff. A special welcome to our new Year 7 students who have made a wonderful start after their induction days last week. A big welcome also to new students in other year groups and all new parents and carers.

One of the strengths of the school is the positive relationships between students and staff and this has been very clear this week. Assemblies have been held with all year groups to remind students that self-respect and respect for others, are at the forefront of the expectations of behaviour. We know that positive behaviour creates a learning environment for all students to succeed. As such I am delighted that there have been over 2200 merits awarded to students already this week and I encourage students to maintain their excellent levels of effort.

Congratulations to a former student for winning Gold

It gives me immense delight to share some very special news with you. A former student, Daniel Pembroke has won a gold medal in the F13 javelin final in the Tokyo Paralympics. He set a new world record with a throw of 69.52m which was nearly four metres further than the record. I spoke to Daniel this week and he is hoping to visit the school later in the term to inspire students with his tremendous success!

COVID-19 Testing

As outlined in my last letter to you on 27th August the government asked schools to give students two lateral flow tests on their return to school in September. The schedule of testing was completed yesterday and I would like to commend students for their conduct and maturity in the way they have participated with in school lateral flow tests. Our priority is to maintain high quality face to face education and the routine twice weekly LFD COVID-19 testing of those aged 11 and above in the household should continue.

The guidance around Track and Trace has changed and the school will no longer be responsible for identifying close contacts should we have a case at the school. 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.

The guidance has also changed and large numbers of students will no longer be sent home. If we are notified that students are self-isolating due to Covid, teachers will be asked to set work for them to prevent them falling behind.

There is further information attached to this letter on COVID-19.



Breakfast service

A breakfast service is now available for all students between 8.15 and 8.45.

Extra-Curricular activities

A programme of extra-curricular activities is being created and will be sent to you as soon as it has been finalised.

Attendance

Student attendance has been high and it is clear that our students are relishing the opportunity to learn from their teachers. There is a lot of educational research that shows a clear link between educational outcomes and attendance to school. It is vital that the students' attendance is high and our target for students is 96%.

Parents are reminded that all term time absences (except for sickness) must be requested in writing to me in advance. Please do not book holidays in term time, as this will not be authorised. Sickness absences should be reported by email attendance@chalfonts.org or telephoning 01753 882032 Option 2. Please include your child's full name and the reason for the absence.

Parking and Buses

We understand that many parents pick up and drop off students in the morning and afternoon. In the morning, the arrival of buses makes the turning circle very busy. Please do not park in this area. I encourage you to park safely when driving and be considerate of our neighbours when bringing your children to and from school. The Tunmers estate, next to the school, is private. Please do not use this road to wait for your child or to turn around.

Thank you for your patience in this first week with the changes that were made to the school buses which created some problems this week.

Year 7 Parents and Carers Welcome Evening

I am really looking forward to meeting Year 7 Parents and Carers at our welcome evening on Thursday 16th September from 6-7pm. A separate letter will be sent with the details of this event.

Year 6 Open Evening

On 13th October we will be holding our annual Year 6 Open Evening to welcome prospective students and parents to our school. More information will be sent out about this closer to the event. It is an important event for the school and an opportunity for students to be ambassadors for the school by volunteering as guides for the evening. Letters will be sent out with further information on this.

I will write to you again with further school news and important information. In the meantime, I hope you have an enjoyable weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Whitehead
Principal

Join us on Twitter @CCChalfonts to keep up with all our school news



COVID-19

If you think your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but has not have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

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

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in [regular LFD testing](#)

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

If you are a health or social care worker who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance available](#) that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading. There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>