



# Seahaven Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Last two weeks of the school year

Please read through the following updates for the end of the academic year:

### Rising Covid cases

As you know, Covid cases are still rising as we move towards Step 4 of the government's re-opening roadmap on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Fortunately, younger people are generally not affected by the disease so severely, but the virus is still being spread across the population. The number of students and staff either presenting with positive Covid tests or being picked up by the NHS app and asked to self-isolate is the highest we have experienced during the pandemic.

We are very conscious that there is a wide variety of views around what communities, the government and schools should be doing, so I want to assure you that we are taking and following public health advice as required as we have done throughout the pandemic:

- We have not yet been advised to close and will remain open as long as we are able to. We have very large numbers of parents/carers in keyworker roles (compared with many other schools) who need the support of the school being open so they can go to work. We also have larger numbers of students who find it very difficult to work at home for a wide range of reasons.
- Students who are self-isolating have work set on the Continuity of Learning page of the school website and will also be invited to Teams lessons where possible.
- Chromebooks are available from school for any student who needs one to work at home.
- Absence for reasons other than illness or required self-isolation will be marked as 'unauthorised' as usual but will not lead to any further action.

### Government and Public Health England advice

The current guidance remains in place until the end of term:

- Do not come into school if you are feeling unwell and have any of the most common COVID symptoms including a high temperature, new or continuous cough and/or loss of sense of taste/smell.
- Take the Lateral Flow Tests required test twice per week on Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning **before** coming into school. Tests need to be reported via the school website to both the school and the NHS as we have been doing since January.

### National changes from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July onwards

We will be continuing with our current arrangements until the end of term:



**Principal Sarah Pringle**

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- Good sanitization and hygiene routines are expected from everyone to ensure that we continue to do what we can to limit the spread of the virus before the start of the holidays: regularly washing/sanitizing hands and 'catch it, kill it, bin it'.
- Students will be expected to wear a face mask in communal areas including the corridors, halls (when not eating) and moving about the school.
- Facemasks will also be encouraged for use in classrooms.

### **Abuse to members of staff**

We have – very sadly, and unusually – had an increasing number of abusive phone calls from parents/carers who feel frustrated by the current situation. Whilst we appreciate these frustrations, it is completely unacceptable to abuse our fantastic office staff who are simply following instructions in an extremely challenging situation. Please remember that we are all 'in the same boat' and that there is no single right or wrong answer as evidenced by the similar numbers of complaints about us still being open and about us asking students to stay at home!

I have instructed my colleagues to politely end any conversations which become abusive by putting down the phone. I hope you will appreciate our need to look after our staff as well as students and families.

### **End of term: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 12.20pm**

We hope to be able to support families by remaining open until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July as planned.

Friday will be an early finish and students will be able to leave at 12.20pm. Food will be available during the morning breaks as usual.

### **Start of term in September**

At present, the plan is for students to have the first of 2 Covid tests requested by the government before the start of term, during the INSET days (Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>) and year 7 and 11 introduction day (Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>). Full details will be shared as soon as we have confirmation of the processes required.

The first full day for all students will be Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Thank you**

Finally, thank you for all your continued support for the students and staff at Seahaven Academy. We will finish this year feeling very proud of our students' resilience and positive attitude during an incredibly challenging period. They have adapted brilliantly to online and onsite working, sometimes a mixture of both, and have taken advantage of all the additional support we have been able to offer to make the most of their education. We know there are still challenges ahead but we know that with the support of our families and wider community, we will be able to cope.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Pringle  
Headteacher