



Seahaven Academy

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Part of United Learning

27th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Start of the new school year

Welcome back!

I hope you have all had a good summer break. I suspect we have all once again felt very fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country when holidays further afield have been so scarce. Despite the very mixed weather, I hope you have enjoyed the change of pace and routine and have been able to keep safe and healthy.

This letter is quite long since it contains a lot of information about the start of term. I apologise in advance for this, but as you will be aware, schools across the country are still having to follow complicated requirements around Covid safety ready for the start of term. However, once we are all back in school, we really hope that it will feel a lot more like a 'normal' school year. Before we are able to do that, here are some updates for the start of September:

Covid measures - general principles

The government is very keen to ensure that schools are able to 'deliver face to face, high quality education to all pupils' during the new academic year. This is part of the national strategy of learning to live with Covid and ensuring that students do not lose any more on-site teaching time and can benefit from full school attendance. The most recent requirements for schools to follow can be found here: [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Schools now no longer have a long list of nationwide requirements to put in place, but instead, there are 4 'controls':

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

If there are further outbreaks of Covid within a school or within the wider community, schools may be asked to put additional measures in place to limit the spread of the virus, as we have done before. These measures could include wearing face masks again in communal areas and/or

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classrooms, limiting the mixing of students across year groups, or in more extreme circumstances being advised by Public Health England to arrange for students to work from home using online provision (in which case we would also still have on-site provision for critical workers and vulnerable children groups).

Covid risk assessments will be managed by each school to reflect their context/need and will be updated regularly and maintained on websites as they have been previously. Parents/carers are encouraged to continue to make suggestions and give feedback relating to the school's procedures (or any other issue) by email: office@seahavenacademy.org.uk

Guidance for students for the start of term

- **Masks** will still be worn on school buses and public transport.
- **Masks** will not be needed in school for staff or students. Anyone who wishes to continue to wear a mask may of course do so. There will undoubtedly be both staff and students who will continue to do this.
- **Year group bubbles** will no longer exist. However, we will be keeping separate entrances, exits, lunch/break spaces and tutor bases as the school is much bigger than it was, and this has been very successful in managing larger numbers.
- **Social distancing** will no longer be required.
- **Good hygiene** will be essential. Frequent sanitizing and washing hands will still be required as will 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
- **Additional cleaning** will still be seen taking place, especially around doors and frequently touched surfaces.
- **After school activities** will now be permitted in mixed age groups along with clubs and activities taking place at lunchtime or during lessons.
- **Keep Up, Catch Up** after school for homework will be running more frequently as we can now combine year groups.
- **Trips and visits** will be able to resume. We have a full programme of trips and visits planned for the year so that we can get out-and-about again as quickly as possible!

Lateral Flow Tests

All students will be required to complete 2 lateral flow tests at the start of term. The first of these will take place next week, before students come back into classes and the second will take place 3-5 days later whilst they are in school.

Students can come for the first test on a 'drop-in' basis during the times below. Students may arrive at any time during the period allocated to their year group. The tests are quickly completed and students will then be able to leave immediately.

If a student records a positive lateral flow test, we will contact home and they will be required to follow self-isolation guidance, contact the NHS Test and Trace services and take a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR test is negative, they will be able to return to school.

Schools will no longer be identifying and sending home the close contacts of students with positive tests.

It is important that as many students as possible come to school next week for the first lateral flow test so that we can start classes promptly the next week. However, if they are unable to attend on the allocated day below, we will continue to carry out testing at the start of term.

Years 7 and 11	Wednesday 1 st September 2.30 - 4.30pm	Gym and Sports Hall – students will be directed to the correct venue
Years 8 and 9	Thursday 2 nd September 2.30 - 4.30pm	Gym and Sports Hall – students will be directed to the correct venue
Year 10	Friday 3 rd September 2.30 - 3.30pm	Sports Hall

If you have not already completed a permission form for the lateral flow tests, please follow the link here: [Covid testing permission form](#)

Following the tests taken in school, students will be given boxes of tests to complete twice per week at home, at least until the end of September. The government will provide schools with further updates on testing within the next few weeks.

Start of term in September: Friday 3rd September and Monday 6th September (8.00am)

- Years 7 and 11 will return on Friday 3rd September
- Years 8, 9 and 10 will return on Monday 6th September

The staggered start is to allow us to administer the second Covid tests and settle year 7 students who have had very little induction time with us so far, and year 11 who will have an extremely busy year ahead.

Uniform

Please make sure that students have all the correct uniform for September. The full list is on the website here: [Uniform list](#) In particular, please note that school skirts must be the Charleston-style version available from Intersport and that formal shoes must be worn rather than trainers. The school jumper – when it gets colder – is the grey version from Intersport, not the PE sweatshirt which is only for sports lessons.

Please also note that hair dyes which are not natural colours and false/painted nails will need to disappear before the end of the holidays in time for the return to school.

If you have any concerns about affordability of uniform, please contact your child's Pastoral Leader during the INSET days who will be able to support you in getting the items needed.

Equipment

Please also make sure that students have the required equipment to make every second of every lesson count. Trying to find pens/pencils etc. During lessons can be very distracting and a waste of precious learning time. It also leads to conduct points and to detentions. We are hoping to set up a school shop for these items later in the year, but until then all students need the following: [Equipment list](#)

We hope that this provides you with the additional information you will need for the start of term. If you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school office from Wednesday 1st September onwards.

See you soon!

Yours sincerely



Sarah Pringle
Headteacher