



Woodkirk Academy

&

The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

28 May 2021

Dear Parent

An update at the end of another very successful term at Woodkirk Academy.

This week we said farewell to our Year 13 students. Their time with us in the Sixth Form hasn't been quite what we would have liked for them but they have adapted to the challenges faced excellently well and have demonstrated maturity, resilience and tenacity throughout. They leave us with the knowledge and character required to tackle the challenges of 21st Century life and to make the most of all that it has to offer. We are proud to be associated with such outstanding young people. So too do our Year 11 cohort move on to the next phase of their transition into post-16 education, employment and training. Students enjoyed a celebration assembly to mark their final day of mini assessments on Monday and have been attending throughout the rest of the week for interviews about their next steps. After the break, some students will engage in a programme run by the National Citizen Service and others will complete a week of Sixth Form taster sessions and career seminars. We look forward to working with them in the weeks ahead.

After the half term break we will reintroduce a form tutor period at the start of each day. Form tutoring is a fundamental aspect of the experience received by students and we are delighted to be in a position to offer this again. We will maintain the staggered start to the school day and students in Years 7 – 10 should be on-site and ready to begin learning at the same times they have throughout the year. However, rather than going straight to period 1, they should, instead, go to their form tutor room. The list of rooms can be found on the school website ([here](#)). Please discuss this with your son / daughter to help ensure they are aware of the arrangements on 7 June. Students in Year 12 will start slightly earlier than previously – 9.05 am. They too should attend their form tutor room when they arrive.

During weeks commencing 14 and 21 June, students will complete assessments in the majority of their subjects. Information regarding these has been shared previously. During these weeks break time for students in Year 8 will run 10.55 – 11.10 am. Break time for other year groups will remain unchanged; lunch time for all year groups will not be affected.

As per government expectations, school will be responsible for close contact tracing of positive cases during the break. This will be **only for cases involving students who were in school up to 48 hours before the test being taken (LFD or PCR) or the onset of symptoms (whichever came first)**. Please see below for full details:

- If a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (on or before Sunday 30 May), the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. In such cases please complete the form [here](#).
- Where a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (later than Sunday 30 May), the school should not be contacted via this form. Parents should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

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- Where students are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case and this will impact on their attendance on or after 7 June, please notify the attendance team in the usual way.
- Whether positive, negative or void, students should continue to log the results of LFD home tests via the Form in MS Teams. **Please note: positive cases should also be recorded in the form mentioned above if taken on or before Sunday 30 May.**

The information [here](#), including the infographic produced by Leeds NHS, is intended to help families to understand what action should be taken in different scenarios when students are ready to return to school after the half term break.

We would ask all students and parents to continue to observe all of the restrictions that are in place, including the need to self-isolate when appropriate and taking care not to increase the risk of infection unnecessarily when in social situations. After the break, students and staff will continue to be expected to wear a face covering when in communal areas. Recently there has been an increase in the number of students failing to bring their own mask to school and we ask you for your support in ensuring that your son / daughter has at least one mask (preferably two) each day.

Over the past 12 months, students and staff have embraced new technologies and this has been instrumental in ensuring remote learning remained of a high quality throughout the lockdown of 2021. MS Teams, in particular, has become a commonly used platform for the sharing of resources and communication between students and teachers. Students are asked not to contact teachers beyond the normal hours of the school day as messages may not be picked up. This includes any safeguarding matters. We would, of course, always encourage students to make somebody aware if something is concerning them; for cases beyond the school day it is likely the most appropriate person would be a family member. However, if they wish to make the school aware, they should not contact an individual member of staff, through MS Teams or by email, and should use the safeguarding@woodkirkacademy.com email address.

As we enter the holiday period, please note the following support:

- Hardship support may be available. Please contact Mrs Standage at standage.j@woodkirkacademy.com if you require this support.
- We know that some families may find themselves becoming eligible for Free School Meals due to changes in circumstances. Please email Mrs J Hudson at hudson.j@woodkirkacademy.com or contact the school on 0113 887 3600 should you need this support.

Once again, we thank all members of the school community for the cooperation, resilience and support they have shown throughout the year and wish everybody a pleasant break. Take care.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Barton
Principal

Mr T Jones
Associate Principal