



Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and that you have been able to spend some time with friends and family. Ahead of the start of the new academic year I wanted to write to you to introduce myself and to remind you of the arrangements for the return to school.

I am delighted to be taking up the position of Headteacher at Chosen Hill School and very much looking forward to working closely with the students, staff, parents and wider community to further develop the positive culture and outcomes. It is really important to me that all students feel known and valued and for them to feel the sense of belonging that is essential for students to achieve. A school should sit at the heart of its community and provide a safe, supportive and inspiring environment where students are challenged to find their best in all they do. At the heart of this is the need to set high standards and clear expectations for all students to thrive. In doing so we can help all students set ambitious goals for themselves and genuinely believe that they can achieve them.

The high expectations start with uniform and behaviour. These not only ensure every student feels like they are of equal value to their peers, but also ensure we educate all students in the importance of mutual respect and positive learning habits. I am very grateful for your support in establishing these standards for all. I know that there have been some challenges over recent months with regards accessing uniform, if you have any concerns please contact school.

After 18 months of lockdowns, online learning and restrictions (bubbles) we are moving to a more 'normal' organisation of the school including returning to faculty based teaching and a more connected learning environment. We will however, be retaining a number of general Covid-19 measures to help the school environment remain as safe as possible. These will include:

- Asking that you Do Not send your child to school if they show any COVID symptoms. Please continue with home testing twice per week using the kits provided by the school (current guidance is for this to continue until the end of September)
- The wearing of face coverings in lessons will not be required, though personal choice will be supported in all social times and/or when moving round school. **Please note guidance still requires the wearing of face coverings when travelling on buses/public transport currently.**
- Hand sanitising stations will remain around the school and students will be encouraged to sanitise regularly during the school day. Our additional cleaning regime during the day will continue.
- Whilst there is no longer any requirement for social distancing in schools, we will continue to encourage students to maintain an appropriate distance from each other and to discourage physical contact.
- Ventilation of spaces is an important part of reducing transmission. We will be continuing to keep windows open and associated measures to improve air flow through classrooms.

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At the end of last term (21st July) we wrote to you to outline the plans for the mass (Lateral flow) testing that we are required to run on site at the start September (<file:///H:/Downloads/parentletter210721-1.pdf>). Please can you check this and discuss with your child to ensure prompt arrival. **Please note that for Years 8,9,10 students will remain in school for the rest of the day following their first test.** I am sorry for any additional inconvenience that this may cause. We will continue to provide testing kits for students and staff for the twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests throughout September (as stipulated in the current Government guidance.)

You will have also noted in the press that other than in exceptional circumstances the school is no longer involved in the track and trace with positive cases - this is to be managed by the NHS who will communicate directly with any positive cases. The school will continue to have contingency plans where we might re-establish the year group bubbles and require face coverings if there are a number of closely linked cases. This will be advised by Public Health England and will be for a fixed (short) duration.

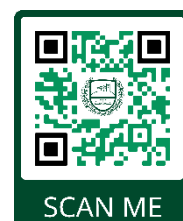
I realise that there may be some anxiousness about returning to school but would like to reassure you that we will continue to monitor our provision and procedures to ensure we can mitigate any additional risk. It is important that we all maintain our vigilance in this and would remind you not to send your child into school if they are unwell and if they display any of the main Covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough and/or loss of taste or smell) that they book a PCR test and remain at home until they you have received the result as a precaution.

Over the summer break there have been a number of building projects focussed on enhancing the provision for all students including the boys' toilets in PE, two new meeting rooms in reception and the redecorating of the Laycock building. Other work to improve the heating system and re-roofing the Gyms, Lower school and Upper school buildings is being scheduled later this year having received some additional funding in July.

We are very much looking forward to resuming school with face to face lessons and staff have been working hard to prepare for the start of term. We can't wait to welcome all returning students as well as those new to the school in Y7 and 12 later this week. On a personal note I am particularly keen to spend time in lessons and meet with students around the school to shape my vision for the school.

If you have a specific question or would like to make a comment regarding your child's experience at Chosen Hill please share this through scanning this QR code on your device or by clicking on the Microsoft Forms link [here](#)

Please enjoy your last few days of the summer break and I look forward to welcoming all students refreshed and ready for an exciting and hard-working year ahead.



Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Pauling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Pauling  
Headteacher