

Dear All,

I do hope you have enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school on Wednesday 8th September and supporting them to get back into the routine of school life. Apologies for the length letter however I feel it important that we are all fully aware of the expectations of the new academic year.

You will be aware, through recent communication from us, that Government expects everyone, including staff, to return to school further to a negative Lateral Flow Test. This expectation has been placed on schools to reduce the risk of spread COVID19 and ensure minimal disruption to learning. We intend to undertake these tests on the morning of the 8th September and again on Monday 13th September following established safety procedures. Please do talk to your child regarding this as this will support us to ensure the tests are managed effectively and without issue.

You may wish to access a summary of the current gov.uk 'Operational Guidance' which can be read in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#stepping>

In summary, the key points are:

- During Phase 4 Government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus
- This new phase marks a move away from the stringent restrictions on everyone's day to day lives towards advising people on how to protect themselves, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk
- As the virus becomes something we learn to live with there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to young people's education and the priority is to deliver high quality face to face education

As we follow the guidance at Spring Hill, we must all adhere to sensible precautions such as regular hand-washing and enhanced cleaning routines as this will support us to minimise risk of an outbreak. However, in the case of a localised outbreak, specific requirements may apply, which may lead to the re-introduction of additional control measures such as face masks etc....

With regards to year group mixing, timetable adaptations and access to school site, there will no longer be year group bubbles or restrictions on mixing during break, lunch, assemblies etc.... Usual timetables will be in operation with students travelling to different classrooms for their lessons as required. All practical- based curriculum activities will resume in full to include the reintroduction of sensory circuit activities as students arrive in the morning. Whilst the sharing of equipment, between students, is not now prohibited we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum and retain enhanced cleaning routines. If your child wishes to bring their own pencil case and resources in to school then we will support them to ensure these are not used by other children.

Whilst we are supportive of visits to site, we feel that essential only visits will support us to keep the virus at bay, particularly as the start of the term is likely to be the most critical time in terms of spread. Should you wish to come in to school, beyond collection and drop-off, please ensure that you make an appointment as we do not support impromptu visits at any time.

You will be aware that contact tracing is now being managed by NHS Test and Trace. If you receive communication from them regarding isolation, please do not send your child in to school and alert us as soon as possible to the situation. This will support us to reduce risk and identify any other student or staff member who may require further testing.

Please note that self-isolation will not be required of students if they are aged 18 years and 6 months or below or have been fully vaccinated having received two inoculations. However, if identified as a close contact, all individuals should take a PCR test and wear a face mask on public and home to school transport. We define 'close contact' as mixing within teaching groups or a class/team/friendship group and/or sharing a taxi.

Face Coverings

Government no longer recommends that face coverings are worn in classrooms or communal areas. However, students may wear a face covering in any situation should they so wish. We have a robust supply of face masks should your child request one or they can wear one of their own. In the event of an onsite outbreak, we will expect all individuals to wear a mask whilst the situation is managed. Please note that face coverings are recommended in places where students may come in to contact with people they would not otherwise meet e.g. public transport. We will encourage students who travel by taxi to wear face coverings and welcome your support in encouraging this. We also expect that drivers and passenger assistants will maintain levels of PPE at this point in time.

Additional Control Measures

We will continue to support students to retain effective hand-washing routines. Upon arrival at school, all students will be expected to apply hand gel or wash their hands; however, we will no longer be taking the temperature of your child. All classrooms and communal areas have a supply of hand sanitiser for all to use as required and various posters will remain placed around the school buildings to remind young people of the benefits of good personal hygiene.

Enhanced cleaning procedures will remain to include the use of approved detergents in line with PHE advice. As before, classrooms will have antibacterial cleaning products and tissue for cleaning down desks/equipment if required and we will retain a dedicated staff member to support with this.

To support good ventilation, windows will remain open as far as is practical; we appreciate that the colder months will require us to maintain temperatures that are conducive to learning.

Individuals with Symptoms/A Positive Test

All students must stay at home if they develop symptoms.

If a student develops symptoms at school we have a risk assessment in place to safely manage this. You will receive notification via a telephone call and asked to collect your child as soon as possible. It is important that public transport is avoided therefore taxi's or the school will not be able to provide transport under such circumstances.

Those with symptoms or testing positive should follow the stay at home guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Lateral Flow Tests

As stated above, all students will undertake 2 tests with the first being administered on the 8th September. Following this, students should continue to test twice weekly, at home, until the end of September in the first instance after which further guidance will be issued. We are happy to support if you feel testing at home would prove difficult. Please advise the school office should you wish us to undertake the tests on your behalf.

In the event of a positive test, students must self-isolate and take a PCR test. If the PCR test is negative, and taken within two days of the LF test, students may return to school as long as they show no signs of continuing symptoms such as a raised temperature, cough or headache.

All positive tests must be communicated to school via the following email address:

springhillschool@cambiagroup.com

Tests can be booked online through the [NHS website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119.

Remote Education

Remote education will continue for those who are self-isolating further to a positive test and who are asymptomatic. As before, we will liaise with you about the most effective way to do this as each young person requires personalised management around this. Clinical support will also be offered and we will do what we can to support your child to catch up on missed learning.

Localised Outbreaks

We maintain a close eye on data regarding local outbreaks therefore measures may be stepped up or down depending on the level of Covid-19 cases within the locality and school community according to the [NHS website](#) 'contingency framework'. Any decision that affect the closure of the school will be undertaken in partnership with Public Health England and Directors of Cambian Autism Service Ltd.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/2_0210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf

I am aware that this letter contains a lot of information so please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Campbell".

Samantha Campbell
Principal