

14 July 2021

Dear parent/carer

I am writing with information about the start of the new school year in September.

As you may know the government has asked secondary schools to offer two Covid tests to all students at the start of term in September. I hope that many students will take up this option. It is a significant logistical exercise to test so many students. If you are able to volunteer to help for a day that would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know by emailing [verrierm@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:verrierm@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk).

**We will write to you in late August with a date and time to come in on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday 1, 2 or 3 September for a first test. This will be to come into school for a test only.**

Students will begin the return to school from Monday 6 September in a staggered way both to facilitate a second round of testing and because our new Year 9 will benefit from some time here to settle before everybody is back in school. This arrangement worked well last September and is important again as they have not had the usual opportunities to spend time here on induction days.

**Consequently Y9 will start on Monday 6 September, Y10 and Y11 on Wednesday 8 September, Y13 on Thursday 9 September and Y12 on Monday 13 September.**

Term dates are on the school website. The Autumn term finishes on Friday 17 December, Spring term is 5 January – 1 April and the Summer term 20 April – 22 July. In 2022 there will be an additional public holiday for the Queen's Jubilee. As this falls in school holidays there may be an additional day's holiday but this awaits a government announcement.

Students should arrive each day for 8.40am with tutor time starting at 8.45am. School finishes at 2.55pm for Y9, 3pm for Y10 and 3.05pm for Y11/12/13. On alternate Thursdays starting Thursday 9 September school finishes at 2pm for Y9/10 and 2.05pm for Y11/12/13. School transport is co-ordinated with these times.

It has been an extraordinary school year. Students have responded very well to everything asked of them by way of changed routines and measures to mitigate against the transmission of Covid. Parents and carers have been really supportive of school for which I wish to thank you. We can only hope that from September we will see less fraught times and a less disrupted school year.

We will write again in August but do email any enquiries to [office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk) and we will respond as quickly as possible. In the meantime, I do hope that you and your family enjoy the summer break.

Yours sincerely

Tim Carroll