

3 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome back

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer and are keeping safe and well. With Results Days, Summer School and preparations for our return, there has been an enormous amount of activity here at NSG throughout the summer break. During this time, we also began our planned refurbishments of the Sixth Form Centre, which will continue over the course of this academic year. We are now very much looking forward to having everyone back at school with us, ready to embark on the new academic year with typical NSG energy and enthusiasm! From the outset, I must advise you that this is a very lengthy letter that contains important reminders about our arrangements for the new term. Thank you for kindly taking the time to read through this carefully and please be assured that we will go through all of these details, carefully, with our students in school on their first few days back with us. Our extended tutor time on the first day will help to support this.

## Dates for Return

As a further reminder, the first day of term for all students is **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** and school starts at 8.50 a.m. We ask all our students to be in their tutor bases at least 5 minutes before this, ensuring they are ready for a prompt and positive start to the day. As is the custom, students will have an extended tutor time on their first day so that tutors can distribute timetables and share important information with them.

On the first day, **Year 7 should go directly to Spinney Theatre**. The Senior Leadership Team, Head of Academic Standards and Year 7 tutors will be present to welcome them and they will later attend a 'Welcome to NSG' – we are very excited to meet them all properly and can only imagine the range of emotions they will be feeling over the course of this weekend. A separate email was sent to Year 7 parents and carers about this yesterday by Mr Simmons and information about the arrangements for **Year 12**, has also been sent out separately by Mrs Green, Director of Sixth Form.

## The School Day at NSG

Upon our return in September, we will resume our normal routines at NSG, as they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that:

- Designated year group 'bubbles' will no longer be in place, and students will be able to move freely around school during break times and lesson changeover.
- Our restaurant and serveries will be open again fully at breaktimes and lunchtimes to all students, serving hot and cold food, as well as beverages in line with our arrangements prior to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Whole school assemblies will resume.
- All after school activities will resume fully and we will be sharing further information about this with you next week.
- Lockers will be reintroduced and these will be re-allocated in the first few weeks of our return. Tutors will provide further information to our students about this.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

It is our intention to have NSG operating as normally as possible in the coming months and this includes our broad and lively programme of extra-curricular activities, which will be starting in a few weeks' time.



Next week, we will be providing information about how your child can sign up and join clubs and activities. However, we are mindful that we must remain cautious and follow the government guidelines at all times to ensure our school remains safe and to avoid any future disruptions - we are working very, very hard to do this. Of course, we also have our Billy Elliot Musical production to look forward to in February and rehearsals and preparations for this will also continue – we cannot wait to see the return of our vibrant performances.

### COVID-19 Testing

As you may recall from my previous letter, to quickly identify any presence of COVID-19 at the start of term, schools are required to offer staff and students two Lateral Flow Tests on returning to school. Consent forms were circulated to all parents and carers, including to our new Year 7 parents and carers, before the end of last term and I am grateful to you for your swift response to this.

We do not want to delay the start to school for anyone and we will begin testing students, who have given consent, on **Monday 6th September**. Students will administer the test themselves, under the supervision of trained staff, in the same way as when these tests were completed previously in March.

Year group testing, for those that have given consent, will take place on the following dates and students will be advised of their tutor group timings by their tutor during tutor time:

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September: Year 9 and Year 11**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September : Year 7 and Year 10**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Year 8, Year 12 and Year 13**

Most of our students are very familiar now with self-testing. Our new Year 7 students, who may be less familiar, will be given appropriate support by trained staff at our Lateral Flow Testing Centre – please do reassure them that they have nothing to worry about.

### Face Coverings

The use of face coverings is no longer mandatory. However, please ensure that your child is ready to wear one, unless they are exempt, should guidance change. Students who wish to continue wearing their face covering are welcome to do so. If there are any changes to school, local, regional or national guidance, we will communicate this with you immediately.

### Hygiene

Our additional safety measures, such as the use of hand sanitiser, consistent reminders about hand hygiene and increased ventilation will remain in place. However, the best way to combat the spread of any disease is good hygiene. We ask parents and carers to support us in ensuring their child:

- Carries a personal bottle of hand sanitizer
- Understands the importance of washing their hands and/or sanitising before touching food/putting anything near their mouths
- Regularly washes their hands
- Avoids sharing personal equipment
- Always carries tissues or a handkerchief and uses this appropriately

### Ventilation

The school will continue to keep rooms ventilated and be proactive in encouraging students to spend time outdoors at break and lunch while it is dry so that they get plenty of fresh air. Please do ensure that your child is wearing a school jumper, as well as their blazer, as the weather becomes chillier in coming months.



## COVID-19 Contingency Plans

At the end of August, the Department for Education released the 'Contingency Framework for Education and Child Care Settings' which outlined the actions to be taken by schools in the event of a positive case, or cases, of COVID-19 and/or an increase in school, local or national transmission rates. Should you wish to read this fully, it can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011704/20210817\\_Contingency\\_Framework\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf)

However, accompanying this letter and to summarise the information, we have produced a much more concise version, which we hope you will find helpful with understanding the new guidance. **Please do take the time to read through this carefully.**

### Remote Learning Arrangements

All students are required to attend school every day unless they are unwell or have had a positive test for COVID-19. If a student is self-isolating due to a positive test and is well, they will be invited to join lessons through Google Meet. We recognise that our new Year 7 students will be unfamiliar with our NSG processes for Remote Learning and will ensure that information is shared with them, as well as parents, early in the term as a precautionary measure.

Again, I look forward to seeing all students on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and to having the opportunity to meet parents and carers over the course of this academic year as we resume more of our face to face events.

With best wishes,






Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya  
**Headteacher**




# Northampton School for Girls


COVID-19 Outbreak Contingency Plan: September 2021

## When should my child self-isolate?


 <b>Self-isolation procedures</b>	 <b>NO - your child does not need to self-isolate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children <b>MUST</b> attend school unless they are ill.</li> <li>From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate, or miss school, if a member of their household, or a close contact, has COVID-19.</li> <li>Instead, they will need to book a PCR test. They should continue coming to school as long as they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and the PCR test result is negative.</li> </ul>
	 <b>YES - your child does need to self-isolate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay at home and should book a PCR test.</b></li> <li>If your child receives a <b>positive result following a Lateral Flow Test</b> taken at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test.</li> <li>If your child <b>develops COVID-19 symptoms at school</b>, they will be sent home and you should book a PCR test for them.</li> <li><b>If your child receives a positive result for COVID-19 following a PCR test, they must self-isolate.</b> The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18, or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.</li> </ul>



## How will Northampton School for Girls respond to changes in School, community or national levels of transmission of COVID-19?

Community COVID-19 Risk	Description	Actions to be taken at Northampton School for Girls
 <b>Low Community Transmission. No School Cases.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There have been no cases of <b>COVID-19</b> within school for 10 school days.</li> <li>Cases of <b>COVID-19</b> locally are low and/ or stable.</li> <li>Hospitalisation/ deaths due to <b>COVID-19</b> nationally are low.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No COVID-19 measures are necessary beyond:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminding children of good hand-hygiene.</li> <li>Ensuring good ventilation encouraged where practical.</li> <li>Ensuring children/staff stay at home if they have <b>COVID-19</b> Symptoms (and book a PCR test).</li> </ul> <p>Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral Flow Tests until the end of September.</p>

Community COVID-19 Risk	Description	Actions to be taken at Northampton School for Girls
 <p><b>Rapidly Rising Community Transmission.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current COVID-19 cases have been recorded at school</li> </ul> <p><i>But...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cases of COVID-19 are rising rapidly in the community causing disruption to other local schools.</li> <li>Northamptonshire Public Health/Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/national infection wave.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ventilation of classrooms increased, as well as hand-washing/sanitisation.</li> <li>Large indoor public performance audience numbers reduced.</li> <li>Staffroom/Faculty base capacity is reduced.</li> <li>Assemblies reconfigured to further reduce numbers.</li> <li>Clinically Vulnerable staff meet with Line-Managers to review their individual risk assessment and discuss additional protection (for example, use of face coverings, reduction in movement between classes/ groups).</li> </ul>

***What happens if one or more children or members of staff test positive for COVID-19?***

Number of Cases	Description	Actions to be taken at Northampton School for Girls
 <p><b>A Single Child Tests positive.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A single child</b> tests positive for COVID-19 in a class.</li> <li>There are <b>fewer than 5 cases in the year group.</b></li> <li><b>No other year groups are affected.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The child will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.</b> Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it.</li> <li>The parents/carers of the child are <b>contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts.</b></li> <li>Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track &amp; Trace and advised to book at PCR Test. The school will contact parents to advise this if close contacts are known.</li> <li><b><u>Contacts do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have COVID-19 Symptoms.</u></b></li> </ul>

Number of Cases	Description	Actions to be taken at Northampton School for Girls
 <p><b>5 children or staff within a year group test positive, within 10 days of each other.</b></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>3 children or staff in a single class/club (or Faculty Base) within 10 days.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 5 cases of COVID-19 across a year group within 10 days which could mean that COVID-19 is spreading within that group of children.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 3 cases of COVID-19 within a single class/club/Faculty Base.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above for each positive case.</li> <li>• The school will discuss the outbreak with West Northamptonshire Public Health and agree the strengthening of protective measures <b>for 10 school days</b>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-introducing staff face coverings for corridors and communal areas.</li> <li>○ Adapting, limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and theatre performances.</li> <li>○ Reverting to video-link assemblies.</li> <li>○ Resuming twice-weekly staff Lateral Flow Testing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>COVID-19 cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the measures and actions indicated above, COVID-19 cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period, with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that COVID-19 is spreading widely throughout the school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above, as well as:</li> <li>• Incident Management Team meeting held between the school and West Northamptonshire Public Health to agree further measures, <b>for a further 10 school days</b>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-introducing ‘bubbles’.</li> <li>○ Reverting to class-based school lunches.</li> <li>○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school.</li> <li>○ Postponing all non-essential events.</li> <li>○ <b>The reintroduction of remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days considered.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Northampton School for Girls will inform parents/carers of any changes to COVID-19 measures, should these be needed.**