

9th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher Update

The last few weeks have been incredibly productive here at Northampton School for Girls as we have been busy finalising all the arrangements for Year 11 and Year 13 assessed grades, organising the logistics of Sports Days and Applied Days, as well as undertaking the auditions for Billy Elliot. On that note, I must say how impressed I have been with the talent all our students have demonstrated in the auditions, with plaudits in particular to our Year 7 students for the enthusiasm and energy they have demonstrated. With just over a week left of this term, we are moving swiftly towards the end of an extraordinary year: after four lockdowns, various iterations of remote learning, a full range of virtual parent/carer consultation evenings and induction activities, it is fair to say that our NSG community deserve this well-earned summer break. Of course, never ones to rest on our laurels, we are also looking forward to meeting our future Year 7 students for our 'Summer Carnival' scheduled for August, with over 200 of them signed up to attend.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Measures

Thank you for your continued support with the protective measures that we have had in place over the last year. I will again offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to our students and staff – all of whom have been magnificent in rising to the daily challenges of COVID-19.

As part of his announcement earlier this week, the Prime Minister set out plans for the final stage of the 'Recovery Roadmap' in England and said that 'bubbles' will be removed for children from Stage 4 of the Roadmap. Following a further statement from the Secretary of State for Education in the house, the DfE has also published new operational guidance for schools.

For your immediate information, below is a summary of the most significant changes from **Stage 4** of the Roadmap. These changes will begin on **Monday 19th July** and are as follows:

- At Stage 4, it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision (for example, summer schools) or in schools from the autumn term.
- Schools and settings will only need to do contact tracing **up to 18th July 2021**. From 19th July 2021 (Stage 4), close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace.
- **From 16 August 2021**, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.
- From Stage 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. They are also no longer recommended to be worn on dedicated transport to school or college.



We will continue to operate the following control measures at Northampton School for Girls:

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone and encouraging our students to continue to use hand sanitiser.
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keeping occupied spaces as ventilated as possible.
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Information about Lateral Flow testing in the autumn term

As part of Stage 4, the Department for Education also confirmed that all secondary school students should be offered two on-site Lateral Flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart, upon their return in September. We will share further details with you about our school procedures for this shortly.

Following the two on-site Lateral Flow tests on return in the autumn term, the government is also recommending that secondary students should continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. We will continue to share information with you about this as we receive it.

With best wishes,



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya
Headteacher

