



# Nether Stowe School

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## Important Parental Update July 2021

Dear parent or carer,

### Arrangements for the end of term

Term finishes for all pupils on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. Following celebratory assemblies for all Colleges, pupils will be dismissed from school from between 12:00pm and 12:15pm

### Arrangements for September

As you may be aware following the recent Government announcement, all pupils will be offered two lateral flow tests on their return to school in September. To facilitate this we, like all schools, will be staggering the return of pupils.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September are both designated as staff development days and the school is closed to all pupils on both days. Pupils will return to school in line with the schedule below. It is important pupils do not arrive before their allocated time.

Year Group	Date	Time
Year 7	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	08:45
Year 11	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	08:45
Year 10	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11:30
Year 8	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	08:45
Year 9	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11:30
Sixth Form	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	09:00

Timetabled lessons will start for all pupils on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. **This will be a week A on timetables.**

Testing will be carried out in school, following the schedule set out below and in line with the return of pupils to school. As a reminder, for pupils in Year 8 to Year 13, the previous consent provided is carried forward, unless you have informed us differently. For parents of pupils in Year 7 in September, consent can be provided, or withheld, by completing the brief form on the following link: [click here](#). Please complete this form no later than **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

	Date of first test
Year 7	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Year 8	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Year 9	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Year 10	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Year 11	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Sixth Form	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept

Whilst the schedule minimises the impact on lessons as much as possible, some lessons will be affected

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during this time.

## Covid Control Measures

In line with government guidance, hand sanitisation procedures will continue at the start and the end of lessons and rooms will remain well-ventilated.

Face-masks are no longer recommended for pupils, staff or visitors in classrooms or communal areas. If pupils wish to wear an appropriate face-covering whilst in communal areas of the school, they may do so. In the case of an outbreak, it may be necessary to re-introduce face-coverings as a temporary measure.

Pupils will no longer be organised into bubbles and we are, therefore, returning to the very successful vertical tutoring system for form time. Formal assemblies will also resume.

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.

Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

## Structure of the School Day

We will be retaining some elements of our current structures into next academic year.

The start of the school day will be slightly staggered to ease the arrival of pupils as follows. Please remember, however, that different timings apply to the pupils' first day back.

Years 7, 8 and 9	Arrival at 08:35
Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form	Arrival at 08:40

From September, all pupils will arrive and enter via the new main pupil entrance directly in front of the new gates.

We will also be operating a system of split breaks and lunches. This significantly helps to provide greater capacity and space at lunchtime for pupils. The arrangements are as follows:

	KS3 (Y7, 8 and 9)	KS4 and Sixth Form
Break	10:05 – 10:20	11:05 – 11:20
Lunch	12:20 – 12:50	13:20 – 13:50

At the end of the day, pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 will be dismissed at **14:55** and all other pupils at **15:00**

The hours allocated to lessons during the day remains unchanged.

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## Attendance

Given the significant amount of education missed in this, and the previous, academic year, attendance for all pupils is of the highest priority.

There is a clear and important link between attendance and good academic achievement and progress. Our updated policy, which will come into effect from September, will focus on early intervention and support. Expect to be challenged every time your child is absent from school. This is not because we do not believe you or that we are not being supportive but because we know how important attendance at school is for all pupils.

## Uniform and Equipment

You will be aware of our very high standards for uniform. The vast majority of our pupils wear their uniform with pride, represent the school brilliantly and look exceptionally smart. Nevertheless, we often encounter some of the same issues in September, which can detract from making a great start to the year for pupils. We will be particularly vigilant regarding jewellery, piercings, shoes, skirt length, make-up, and hair styles.

To support us and your child, please ensure you have reviewed the uniform and equipment expectations available [on the website](#) well in advance of September.

From September, pupils will no longer wear their PE kit to school on their timetabled PE days. They will come into school in their normal uniform and change into their PE kit in school.

If you require any financial support to acquire appropriate, or required, items of uniform or equipment, please contact your child's pastoral head.

## Parents Evenings

We will be reinstating formal parent consultation for next academic year. We will be using an online booking system with the vast majority of meetings taking place virtually: feedback has shown this provides significantly flexibility and control for parents and makes the meetings more focused, efficient and purposeful.

The dates for parental consultation are set out below. All consultation evenings start at 15:30 and finish at 18:00.

Year 7	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
Year 8	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Year 9	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Year 10	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec
Year 11	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Year 12 and Year 13	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov

We will be providing more information regarding the new system well in advance of each scheduled evening.

The partnership we have with parents is incredibly important. Parental consultation evenings provide an opportunity to understand the progress and work of your child, but they are not, in themselves, a dialogue. I would always encourage you to proactively contact your child's teacher when you have a question, please don't leave it until you have a concern. Contact details are available via the school website

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## New facilities (Sports Hall, Dining and Study Area)

We are incredibly excited that the start of the new school year will see our new facilities fully available to students and the local community. We were fortunate and privileged to have the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, visit the school to tour the fantastic work and officially open the new extension to the school. You can read the news reports by [clicking here](#) and [here](#).

The Sport Hall is now complete, and some lucky pupils have had the opportunity of a sneak preview. You can see the video on our website by [clicking here](#).

Work has also started to completely refurbish the PE changing rooms as well as the old gym, providing both great facilities for pupils and increasing our indoor PE space.

Over the summer, we are also undertaking refurbishment work in the canteen to improve the serving area as well as a new 'café' space that can be used by Sixth Form students. Brilliant new dining seating will also be available for pupils in September. We are also carrying out refresh and update work around a number of areas in the school, ready for September.

We are absolutely thrilled by what the future holds for our pupils, and we are continuing to work hard to provide the best facilities we can.

## Extra-Curricular Provision

The pandemic has affected not only academic progress but also the experiences and opportunities that are so important for our young people. Core to our vision and values is our commitment to providing pupils with amazing chances to challenge themselves and experience something new.

From September, we will be significantly broadening our extra-curricular offer across the whole school. Activities will take place every Wednesday after-school from 15:00 – 16:00, though some may go on for slightly longer.

At the start of each half-term, we will update our extra-curricular menu but you can read our offer for the first half-term by [clicking here](#).

## Open Evening

We are looking forward to opening our doors for the first time in a while and welcoming prospective parents to our Open Evening on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. It will be a brilliant opportunity to see just how much Nether Stowe has changed and the exciting offer we have for our pupils.

Undoubtedly, this has been a really challenging year and we have really valued the parental support we have received. We want our pupils to have a well-earned and relaxing break. As always, please take care over the summer and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school in September.

Best wishes,

**Mr G Langston-Jones**  
Headteacher

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