



DEVONPORT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

A SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COLLEGE

23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support during the past academic year. As we look forward to September, we would like to update you on the arrangements for the return to school in September. In line with current guidance from the Department for Education, we have planned for the school to open without the Covid systems of controls in place, so there will be no year group bubbles or one-way systems. However, we are prepared to put these systems back into place if guidance should change before the start of next term. We will keep you updated.

We are also required to undertake mass testing again at the start of term. Although we are allowed to bring students back early to be tested before the start of term, this is not practical for some of our families who live a good distance from the school and rely on contract buses. Therefore, we will operate a phased return in the same way that we did after the lockdown in March. The consent forms completed for the March mass testing are still valid. However, please note that if your child has tested positive for Covid-19, they cannot be involved in lateral flow testing for 90 days after the date they tested positive as they could produce a false positive result. The dates that the year groups will return to school are shown below. Specific timings and arrangements for any remote learning will be given in further communication next month:

Wednesday 8th September – Years 7 and 12

Thursday 9th September - Years 8, 11 and 13

Friday 10th September - Years 9 and 10

Thank you to those parents/carers who have volunteered to help out with the lateral flow testing. We really appreciate the support, as September is such a busy time in school. If you would like to volunteer but have not yet done so, please email dhsg@dhsg.co.uk and let us know. We will be in touch with everyone who volunteered next month to give you further information on the training and when we need you to come into school.

Towards the end of this term some of our students had to self-isolate for Covid-19 reasons and did not have the opportunity to empty their locker. We would like to invite those students into school during the week commencing Monday 2nd August between 9.30 and 11.30am to collect their belongings from their locker. If you are away on holiday that week, please email dhsg@dhsg.co.uk and we will arrange an alternative time for you. We start our deep clean of the school in the second half of August, so any lockers that are still locked at that time will be broken open so that we can ensure the lockers are empty and cleaned ready for the start of term.

This week we said a very sad farewell to our Head Teacher, Mrs Anita Hemsli. Thank you to those people who sent in messages or cards. You can still send these in, and we will ensure that she receives them.



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Although the Covid-19 pandemic has presented us all with challenges, there have been some positives and we have been looking at what has worked well to see which arrangements we wish to keep. One of these is the wearing of PE kit to school when students have a PE lesson. This has had a very positive impact on lessons and therefore will stay as the usual arrangement. Students will be expected to wear the correct PE uniform – this includes the correct shorts or leggings and a DHSG hoodie. We would appreciate your support with reinstating our high standards of uniform in September. All of our uniform suppliers are now open and their details are available on the school website. If you have any pre-loved uniform that your child has outgrown, our PTFA would be very grateful for any donations.

We are receiving regular updates to the guidance from the Department for Education. No doubt this will continue during the summer holidays, and we will monitor this and advise you of any changes to arrangements for September. We hope you all have a relaxing summer holiday, and we will see you all in a few weeks' time

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Bell', written in a cursive style.

Mr Beverley Bell
Acting Head Teacher