



From the Headmaster, Mr MJ Windsor, BA, MA

9 July 2021

Dear Parents

Covid-19: Arrangements for Michaelmas term 2021

Following the announcement from the Secretary of State for Education on Tuesday we do not anticipate having bubbles for the new academic year. We plan to have a normal timetable with a return to the usual access to the library, dining hall and other school facilities. However, this is dependent on the government guidance that is in place at the time. As it currently stands there will be a requirement for onsite testing of students before their return to the classroom and twice weekly home testing will continue at least for September. Children who are close contacts of a positive case will no longer need to self-isolate but they will be recommended to take a PCR test. We will be writing to parents with details of the arrangements for the start of next term in the last week of the summer holiday.

It is important to note that we do expect all students to be at school, in person, for the start of lessons on the first day of term. Please take this into account when making travel plans over the summer so that any period of quarantine can be completed in time for the onsite testing that will be required before the start of term. We are provisionally planning that onsite testing will take place on Sunday 5 September and Monday 6 September before lessons begin on Tuesday 7 September. The second onsite testing will then take place in school in the first week of term. These arrangements will be confirmed after the August bank holiday.

We appreciate that this is a particularly difficult time for our international boarding families who are trying to make travel plans for next term. Mr Kendry has written separately to the parents of boarders about quarantine arrangements and will communicate further details over the summer. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your son's housemaster or Mr Kendry if you have any boarding queries.

Uniform will return to winter dress from the start of next term. Exceptions are: third year students who should wear sports kit on Mondays, fourth year students on Tuesdays, and fifth year students on Fridays. Students are required to have the regulation Abingdon uniform, and can only wear Abingdon sports kit with a full school tracksuit.

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Pupils must abide by the school dress code and no hoodies, tops or tracksuits that are non-Abingdon will be allowed. Details of school uniform including sports kit can be found [here](#).

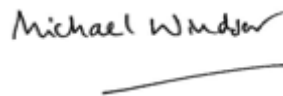
Haircuts will also need to comply with our school policy: *Hair must be cut so that it does not lie on the collar nor is excessively close-shaven. Hair must look smart, and must not appear to be attention seeking. Bleaches or dyes that are in blatant contrast to a boy's natural colour are not permitted.*

The government has said that there is no need for students to continue with regular lateral flow testing during the summer holidays unless they are attending holiday activities in a school setting.

The safety of the students in our care and our staff remains paramount. However, we are hoping that the new academic year will see a welcome return to school life where fixtures, trips, concerts and productions are all part of the calendar.

It remains for me to wish you all the best for the summer and to thank you once again for the tremendous support and understanding that you have shown the Abingdon community. It is much appreciated.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Windsor". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael Windsor
Headmaster