

Chipping Sodbury School

Newsletter



I hope that you and your family are fit and well. As the country begins to open up further, I wish to outline how we will be managing this in school. Overall, there will be few changes to our way of operating. However, the key modification we aim to implement is for students to move around the site to different lessons rather than staying put. We will be operating a one way system around the site which we will be relying on students to follow. This change to the organisation of the school will take place from **Monday 7th June 2021** as we start term 6. Students will be reissued with their timetables indicating the change to the rooms. Students will be taught the same subjects on the same day, this will not change. We will be helping year groups with movement around the school and have prepared some additional induction for Year 7 as they have yet to experience our usual way of working.

The arrangements that will remain in place are:

1. Staggered start and end to the day
2. Year group external zones and bubbles – this will support contact tracing should we need to do so
3. Separate year group toilets
4. The PE changing rooms still cannot be used so students should continue to wear PE kit on the days they have a PE lesson.
5. Parents/carers are asked to still not come on site to drop off/pick up or 'drop in' to Reception. Appointments do need to be made in advance should you need a face to face discussion.
6. The school meal service will remain as it is in terms of the food on offer. We are still not able to offer either a breakfast service or break-bar.

We will carefully monitor this key change and make further modifications in preparation for 21st June should we need to do so. We are hoping for further easing of restrictions nationally but we will monitor the local position and follow all guidance issued by the DfE. Should further changes need to be put in place, we will communicate these with you. In the meantime, please could you speak with your son/daughter to emphasise the need to maintain year group bubbles and to stay in zones? This has certainly helped keep our school community safe.

All students are now no longer required to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal spaces including corridors. If a student does want to continue wearing a face covering because it makes them feel safer, it will not be discouraged. All adults are expected to wear a face covering in corridors and some staff may choose to continue to cover their faces in classrooms. I am supporting my colleagues in their personal choice. Any student who uses a bus or taxi service to and from school must continue to wear a face covering whilst using transport. I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that this message is clearly understood. We do have plenty of disposable face coverings available should anyone require assistance. If you have an appointment in school, you will be required to cover your face whilst on-site especially if we are unable to socially distance. Please do ensure appointments are made in advance as we are still not in a position to accommodate unannounced 'drop ins'.

In the future, the re-introduction of face coverings for students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. The full guidance on wearing face coverings can be found [here](#). There is a danger that students will view the change of expectation about face coverings as meaning

Forthcoming Dates

May

27th Mufti Day
27th End of Term 5

June

7th Start of Term 6
10th Cotswold Edge Open Evening
11th CS Science Fair—Y7/Y8
16th CS Festival Concert
18th Y7 Chemlabs trip
24th Y12 Parents Evening BGS
25th INSET
29th Y5 tours
30th Y5 tours

July

1st Y11 Cotswold Edge Induction
1st Y11 Moving On Assembly
1st Y5 tours
5th Y11 Prom
7th UWE Apprenticeship Day
8th Y6 Induction Day 1 & Meet the Tutor Evening
9th Y6 Induction Day 2
13th Sports Day
14th Y10 Parents Evening
15th Sports Day Backup
19th Old Sodbury School production
21st Mufti Day
21st End of Term 6

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there is no further risk. Please reinforce with them that all other controls and restrictions remain in place in school and caution is still needed in order to keep everyone safe.

Regular asymptomatic Coronavirus (Covid-19) tests should continue to be taken and reported to both school and the NHS on a twice weekly basis. Schools play an important role in gathering and sharing local statistics regarding testing with Public Health. Thank you to those of you who are regularly testing and submitting the results. This is appreciated and helps South Gloucestershire track local rates. A positive LFD test result should be reported to school immediately and the student, close contacts and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance and book a PCR test within 2 days of the positive LFD test. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the individual can return to school, and their close contacts can also end their self-isolation. All adults are now able to access regular testing at home and kits can be obtained at a chemist. We will continue to issue the boxes of the tests to students. Please remember though, these tests are not for use if you have symptoms of coronavirus.

We are well underway working with our partner primary schools in supporting the transition process for Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. Members of staff are visiting primary schools to meet the children and the teachers and we are looking forward to welcoming them all on 8th and 9th July for their Induction Days.

Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for students in Years 11 and 13 are currently being decided. This is an additional and complex process for schools to undertake this summer. We have a robust procedure in place including the completion of summer assessments for students which will contribute towards the final grade. This has created a lot of pressure for students and staff alike and I am sure you will want to join me in thanking staff for their hard work in ensuring the process has been fair and equitable for all. Thank you for the support you have been providing for your son/daughter going through this unusual process from the student perspective. As a reminder, exam results days will be as follows this year: **10th August for Year 13** and **12th August for Year 11** students. Once we are clear if we can host results days on-site, we will be back in touch to explain the process. A reminder that we will be joining the other schools in the Athelstan Trust on **Friday 28th May** to enable cross school moderation and quality assurance to take place. The school will be closed for all students on that day.

Free School Meal vouchers will be issued to families in due course prior to the start of the half term holiday. If you think you are entitled to, or have just been approved for, benefits-related free schools meals and do not receive any supermarket vouchers, please contact us in school.

With very best wishes,

Katherine Turner
Headteacher

Key reminders:

Please support your son/daughter and the school regarding the following:

Jeans/denim of any description are not part of our school uniform. If any parent/carer requires assistance with uniform, please let the relevant Head of House know.

A number of students are bringing fizzy drinks into school, some of which are very high energy drinks. These drinks, whether in a can or bottle, should not be brought into school at any time and they are not appropriate for breakfast. Drinks will be confiscated if found with a student.

Mobile phone policy – please could you remind your son/daughter that mobile devices are not to be switched on or used in school including the school grounds. Devices are at risk of being confiscated for the day and locked in a safe if seen out of a bag/pocket. Please could you reinforce the need to have a phone etc switched off and buried in a bag? Thank you for your help



One of our talented year 12 students, Lewis Adams, has really embraced all the opportunities that the Cotswold Edge Sixth form at Chipping Sodbury School has to offer. We are so proud of Lewis. One of the schemes he joined was a Cambridge shadowing programme. At the end of this he took his Cambridge mentor's advice and entered a competition with the prestigious Linklaters law firm. He won himself a cash prize and £1000 for the school.

Mrs Wiffen (Sixth form tutor)

Below is an article Lewis has written about his experience:

I was made aware of an opportunity to take part in the Linklaters making Links Challenge 2021 by a mentor on a Cambridge Shadowing Scheme. To enter the competition, I had to submit a five slide PowerPoint on the greatest challenges and opportunities in a post Covid world. Here, I argued that environmental concerns, a need for corporate tax reform and a greater concern for human rights was needed by businesses in order to remain profitable and of an interest to the consumer.

I was very surprised to be informed that my submission had made it down to the final 20, which resulted in me being invited to a virtual information day where myself and 19 other students learned more about the firm. It was incredibly interesting to hear a partner perspective of the firm, however the most interesting part was hearing from the ESG (Environmental, social and governmental) department where we discussed the biggest problems affecting companies such as Shell. It was interesting, especially as this is an area that would interest me, as I am intrigued by how polluting companies need to shift to a more green model, allowing it to remain of importance to the consumer.

After the virtual presentation, we had 3 hours to video and submit a video presentation, based on and adapted from our original submission. This was something that I found difficult as the strict timing resulted in me having to make some compromises to my video submission.

The next day, I was incredibly surprised to have made it down to the final four. This meant I had to present to three partners and take questions from them. Although I was nervous and had never done this before it allowed me to understand their opinion and practise my persuasive and reasoning abilities as I tried to convince them of my views.

Overall, I finished as the second runner up. This has been a great experience and has allowed me to further reassure that law is a career that I would like to pursue and take advantage of all the opportunities that are offered. This was an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Lewis Adams

Chipping Sodbury Prom 2021

The De Vere Tortworth Court Hotel

Monday 5th July 6.30-11pm

(6.30-7pm is arrivals and time for family and friends to take photographs – students will enter the event at 7pm)

Please email Mrs Emms with any dietary requirements/queries at elaine.emms@chippingsodbury.school

We are so excited that this event can go ahead! We can't wait, and look forward to seeing you all there.

Mrs Emms



GCSE Drama:

Our Y10 GCSE Drama students will be performing their version of the famous fairytale *Cinderella* for a specially invited audience of Y7s on 26th May. The group have worked really hard to prepare for this performance, which will be a trial run for their final performance exam in Y11. We hope to be able to share some pictures of the production in the next newsletter.

CSSC - Chipping Sodbury School Company:

If Stratford-upon-Avon has the RSC, why shouldn't Chipping Sodbury School have a go?! In Term 6 we will be launching CSSC - initially to Y8s but we will open it to all year groups as soon as restrictions allow. This group will meet weekly and work on small-scale performances, but they will also form the foundation of larger scale projects such as our planned whole school production next year. Students should look out for posters in the coming weeks and we hope many of our talented Y8 performers will come along.

Literacy:

CSS is taking part in the national Readathon event. This project enables students to raise money for their own school library by being sponsored to read as much as they can. A portion of the funds raised goes to buy books for children in hospitals across the UK to support their learning and their mental health while they are in hospital. Any student can take part. See Mrs Donnelly for a sponsor kit. Y7s and Y8s can also come to the Readathon Club running on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Library after school.

Sixth Form News

It is that time of the year when our Year 13 students leave us and we look towards celebrating with them at their Gala Dinner at the end of June. Year 13 parents are invited to a drinks reception, where we hold a prize giving and formally say our goodbyes. More detail will be sent out to you next term.

I would like to take this opportunity to say the Year 13 students have been an excellent year group to work with. I am extremely proud of all of their achievements and how they have overcome the diverse learning situation we have found ourselves in. I look forward to seeing them all at the Gala Dinner.

Year 12 will soon start applying for university through the UCAS system and have already begun to search courses, <https://digital.ucas.com/search>. To help parents to understand the process, we have a higher education and apprenticeship event on Thursday 27th May. This will be launched on the Cotswold Edge website <https://www.cotswoldedgesixthform.org.uk/> at 6pm. On the site you will find presentations from Cambridge University, UWE and Apprenticeships. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your son/daughter's personal tutor, or myself, if you require further information.

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 students to our Cotswold Edge Induction morning on 1st July; more details will be sent home next term.

Year 10 have an information evening on 10th June, students will receive a Cotswold Edge application handbook and there will be more information for parents on the website. If you have any questions about Cotswold Edge Sixth Form, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr Milburn or myself.

Year 12 are busy revising for the mock exams which will take place in the exam hall at their home school the week of 7th June. The students have been issued with a timetable and teachers have been reviewing revision techniques in lessons.

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Throughout this year we have been working with Grass Routes for students to develop their leadership skills, team work and resilience. On 19th May Year 12 attended a team building day at Bristol harbourside where they undertook a variety of activities including canoeing. We had an excellent day, as you can see from the photos.



Finally a huge congratulation to Lewis Adams who has written about his fantastic achievement following his participation in the Linklater's competition.

Ms Hilleard
Head of Sixth Form

