

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School  
providing a Values Based Education*

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you all well, safe and ready for the new term ahead. We have had a great day in school today getting ready for students to return next week and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school next week. Thank you again for all of your support before the Summer Break when we had to move the school to remote learning and I hope that everyone who tested positive for Covid-19 is now well. We are aware that some of you had a challenging summer – Covid-19 and non-Covid-19-related – please remember that we are all here to help and support you. Our Value of the Month for September is 'Community' and we are determined to be the best support we can be through these difficult times. Welcome to our new families – we hope that you have a brilliant learning journey with us ... and we hope that the year will be calmer and less disrupted.

With regard to our arrangements for the new term, you will find attached a document with our plan for the start of term. In general, we are 'back to normal'. The three main differences are:

- 1) There is no longer an expectation to keep year groups separate, so there is no longer any social distancing or the need for 'bubbles' in school.
- 2) Face coverings are no longer recommended (although they should still be worn on school transport). We are, however, very happy for anyone who may be anxious to wear a face covering in school.
- 3) Contact tracing will be done by NHS 'Test and Trace' and close contacts no longer need to self-isolate – they will be advised to take a PCR test.

Full details are in the notes provided. There is also information about some key school practices. Please take time to read through the information before students return to school (apologies that there's a lot of information!). We will go through the key points with students next week.

As previously noted, we have a staggered start to the school year to allow us to do the recommended testing for Year 7 and 8 students. Testing is optional and you do not need a test to return to school. However, given the local and national case-numbers, we highly recommend taking part in this initiative. In-school testing helps students to learn how to do the tests for themselves so this is particularly important for new Year 7 students. Year 7 and 8 will have already had information about how to book times for in-school testing. Start and Testing dates are as follows:

- Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 in school (Year 7 testing)
- Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 and 6 in school (Year 8 testing)
- Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September – All Year groups in school.

Year 7 will have a further test in school on Thursday and Year 8 will have their second test on Friday. After that, both year groups should continue home-testing twice per week and we will issue test kits to all students.

On another note, the other 'event' next week is School Photographs – these are being taken on Thursday.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart  
Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies – Senior Leader: Mr James Ulph

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Over the summer, we have had a substantial upgrade to our ICT systems. We have some lovely new computers and equipment for students to use. Unfortunately, this has led to some 'downtime' for our internet and servers, so apologies if you have been trying to contact us. Please bear with us as the new systems are installed and upgraded.

This year, we have also revised and simplified our school vision.

**VISION**  
"Live life in all its fullness"

**The Good Shepherd**  
John 10, 10

We choose ...  
... to live our values  
... being the best we can be  
... in community



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**Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care**

"Live life in all its fullness" comes from the story of Jesus as The Good Shepherd in John 10:10. Jesus says that there are many 'shepherds' out there (some thieves and robbers), however, if people follow him, he will look after them and 'give them life in all its fullness'. At Holywell, even though not all of our community members are Christian and not all are 'of faith', we ask that everyone who chooses to be a part of our Holywell community commits to following the values and mindset inspired by Jesus, his values and his teachings. We also ask everyone to be open to everything; take every opportunity offered and try to 'live life in all its fullness'.

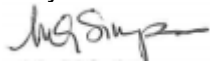
The three key aspects of 'living life in all its fullness' we have identified are:

- Live our values
- Be the best we can be
- In Community

We aspire and challenge all members of our school community to live out our values in everything we do; choosing the right thing to do because it's the right thing to do; being respectful, seeing the other person's perspective and being courageous and hopeful. Being the best we can be is about being the best we can be academically, socially and personally ... and this needs to be done 'in community'. It is all too easy to be the best at the expense of others – at Holywell, we aspire to being part of a group and never doing anything that would have a negative impact on others. We need to support each other in learning, in social times, in good times, and in difficult times. We need to always choose kindness; care for each other; and be Peaceful Problem-solvers.

Holywell is very special place to learn and to work. Visitors often comment on the wonderful students and staff and of both the care and focus on learning that we have here. We are a listening school and when we come across a challenge, we find a way forward with grace and a genuine desire to do the best we can for all our students. I hope we all have an amazing year.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing students in school next week.



Mr Simpson