



Samuel Cody School

Ballantyne Road Farnborough Hants GU14 8SN
Email: adminoffice@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk
Telephone: 01252 514194
Community: 01252 401080/87
Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

10th September 2021

Welcome back letter – Primary and Secondary– 10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you at the end of a very busy first week. Our pupils in primary and our students in secondary have come back to school full of smiles and tales of their summer holidays. It has been a lovely first week back and we have welcomed thirty six new children across all phases.

Our year 11 leavers achieved some excellent exam results and we wish them all well on their college courses.

Again, I would like to thank you for all of your support with the Covid-19 home and in school testing of our pupils and students. This will continue to help us keep safe by enabling us to know the health status of those around us. We continue to need your support with lateral flow testing where possible and engagement in the Saliva Testing programme on a Monday. If you would like any information about either of these testing approaches, please contact Mr Tyreman our Covid Officer at: g.tyreman@samuelcody.hants.sch.uk

At present the Covid guidelines are as follows:

- Close contacts will be contacted by NHS track and trace. We may be contacted to help identify close contacts and will be using seating plans in classes to help us with this.
- Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19, or are a close contact of someone with Covid-19 if they are fully vaccinated or are between the ages of 6 months and 18 years.
- These close contacts will be asked by NHS track and trace to complete a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if asked to do so. Anyone without symptoms who returns a negative PCR test can return to school. Anyone without symptoms can return to school pending their result. If this result is positive students will need to isolate for ten days from the date of the test. It is really important that individuals seek a PCR test when asked to do so as NHS England will advise you of your safe return date to school.
- Pupils and students no longer need to wear a mask in school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on any dedicated or public transport.
- Anyone in our setting who develop symptoms, however mild, will be sent home. They must follow public health advice, which is to isolate and test within two days on a PCR test. If tested negative but still with symptoms, they should continue to isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

- Symptoms are: (Any one of the following) High Temperature, Continuous Cough or Loss of taste or smell. If you are unsure of what to do please call and speak to Mr Tyreman or email him for advice.
- Any pupil or student testing positive on a Lateral Flow Test should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will need to take a PCR test to confirm the presence of the virus. They should remain isolating whilst awaiting the PCR result.
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of a positive lateral flow test and is negative, it overrides the lateral flow test and the individual can return to school as long as they do not have Covid-19 symptoms. Those with a negative lateral flow test result can also return to school.
- Anyone with symptoms should expect a welfare telephone call from Mr Tyreman, to check if any further support is needed.

Other school business

Whilst we are still operating under our Covid-19 risk assessment, we are also attempting to try and get things back to normal in school. To this end we will be restarting after school clubs in the week beginning 20th September in secondary and the week beginning the 27th September in primary. We will be operating year group bubbles in secondary and these after school clubs will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 until 3:30pm. Both secondary and primary departments will be in touch soon with details of what is on offer and when.

I am keen to start termly year group coffee mornings for secondary parents and there is also one planned for primary parents. We will be in touch soon to let you know about these. They are, as I am sure you will know, Covid-19 dependant, and if anything changes we will let you know.

We are planning to hold an alternative to parents evenings this year. This is to help support the welfare of the staff and also to try and tempt more parents to attend. To this end we will be holding Student Review Days once a term. On these days, pupils in primary and students in secondary instead of coming into school for the day, will attend a meeting with their parents and their tutor and others who teach them. We will combine these days with McMillan coffee mornings and I am hopeful that you will find them more informative than the usual parents evenings and be able to see more of your child's work. These will not replace EHCP annual review meetings which will still go ahead as usual, although information gathered in them may be used to inform the EHCP annual review. A small project or task will be set for students to complete at home on these days.

This year marks the start of a new secondary curriculum with additional lessons covering literacy and numeracy. There is also an enrichment afternoon on Wednesdays for years 7-9, and this is an opportunity for our students to experience an alternative curriculum. Currently the year 9's are participating in water sports at Horseshoe Lake and have had enormous fun in their first session. This activity will be available to all year groups in years 7-9 over the course of this academic year and will last approximately 6 weeks. You will be given more information when it is time for your child to attend these off-site sessions. Other enrichment sessions are delivered on school premises and include things such as radio show, school magazine, forest school and Commando Joes.

This coming year we have planned some residential activities for years 8 to 11, with an overnight sleepover for year 7's. These include a trip to Avon Tyrell in the new Forest and to Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. The Year 11's will participate in a transition residential at Runways End. Information will be available later in the year.

Lastly I would like to apologise for the problems with Hampshire transport this week. Whilst this is not in our control, I am aware than many of you have had issues and some of our new students have not been allocated places until later this week. We try and do all that we can to support in instances such as these, but hopefully it has improved. If you are still having problems please call the school office and let them know.

Thank you for your on-going support and I hope to meet you in school soon.

Yours Sincerely

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

Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College