

18 June 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister that COVID restrictions have been extended to 19 July, and the comments from Michael Gove in relation to the relaxation of restrictions coinciding with the start of the summer holidays, we have taken the difficult but prudent decision to maintain our current risk assessment in its current form until the end of the academic year in July, including the two and a half days that fall after the new published date for the relaxation of restrictions.

I will detail below what this means in relation to planned events and activities for the rest of the summer term, and any actions we need to take.

Sports day

Our whole school sports day will not go ahead as planned on 16 July, instead the event has been moved to Friday 3 September. This is the first day of the new school year for all students and gives us the opportunity to invite parents and carers to attend and participate in the event. It will also be a lovely way to start the new school year and for our new year 7 and 12 students to join our community.

Year 11 Taster week

This will go ahead as planned as we are able to operate this opportunity within our current restrictions. As we have moved sports day, the Friday morning will now be an assembly plus an opportunity to gather and mark the end of year 11. This will be run in line with the event we held for Year 13 students before half-term which was lovely.

Year 13 Leavers' event

This event, on 30 June will run as planned. This activity is within the current bubbles and therefore we are able to offer it.

Year 7 team building day

We are able to run this day as planned on 5 July. The arrangements already considered the Sevenoaks and Tonbridge bubbles.

Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and assessments

These will go ahead as planned as they are already planned with bubbles in mind.

Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Margate

This trip will go ahead as planned as it can be operated within our current bubble-based risk assessment.

Year 12 Art Trip to West Kent College

This trip will go ahead as planned as it can be operated within our current bubble-based risk assessment.

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Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust

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Invitations for Parents and Carers to visit the school

The opportunity to have a tour of the school with your child will be offered in the new academic year to all parents and carers.

Whole school diversity week

Will run as planned next week. Students will be given the opportunity to add a rainbow element to their normal school uniform if they wish to show their support on Friday, 25 June. More detail will be shared with the students via form tutors.

Lateral Flow Testing

As we have seen in school this week, cases of COVID are increasing within the community again. I would like to thank you all for your full participation in lateral flow testing which is supporting us to mitigate the risk of asymptomatic spread of the infection. All members of the school community should continue to test twice a week and report any positive results to the school.

We are obviously disappointed not to be able to push ahead with our plans to welcome parents and carers back onto site this academic year, however, we must continue to follow the guidance from government. In terms of the whole school sports day, we did consider moving sports day to the last week of term, after 19 July. However, having looked at the detail of the guidance in relation to the safe operation of sports days in schools this year, and taking into account the potential impact of a positive case amongst the whole school community operating without social distancing, we felt the disadvantages and possible risks outweighed the disappointment of moving the event to September when we hope to be able to enjoy a sports day much more akin to Weald tradition.

As always, thank you for your continued support and understanding and if you have any questions, do please contact us on school@wealdgs.org.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E. Bone
Headteacher