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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

**THOMAS ADAMS SIXTH FORM
ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)**

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Jenni Whitfield BA (Joint Hons), Tom McAleavy BA (Hons)



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the last few days of the summer break, I do hope you have had chance to have some rest and are ready for the new academic year. I am sure there will be challenges ahead in these ever-changing times, but I am confident that we as a school community will manage them together. This letter contains some really important information about the start of the academic year and the year ahead – I would ask that you read it really carefully. If you have any questions, please contact school at enquiries@thomasadams.net

Covid-19 Testing

You will be aware of the Government requirement for all pupils to receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. If your child has had a confirmed positive Covid-19 PCR test within the last 90 days, then they will not have to complete an on-site lateral flow test before returning to school on Monday 6th September.

The test kits that we have been allocated will require nose swabs only (not throat swabs, as last time).

If you have not already completed a consent form, and wish your child to participate, please complete the form at <https://forms.office.com/r/GFVQWHzGau>

Our testing schedule is set out below:

Wednesday 01/09/2021	Thursday 02/09/2021	Friday 03/09/2021	Monday 06/09/2021	Tuesday 07/09/2021	Wednesday 08/09/2021
Year 9 Year 11	Year 8 Year 10 Sixth Form	Year 7	Year 9 Year 11	Year 8 Year 10 Sixth Form	Year 7

A full transport service will operate on Wednesday 1st September and Thursday 2nd September, with normal pick-up times. Buses will leave school at around 11am after the tests have been completed. Please note that the Department for Education recommends that children and young people aged 11 and over should continue to wear a face covering when travelling to school.

Year 7 parents should please bring in their children for the Moving Up day on Friday 3rd September as originally planned.

Those pupils in Year 8 and above who do not normally use school transport should please arrive at school at 11.30am on their designated day, and will be allowed to return home as soon as their test is complete.

Changes in Protective Measures

Working to the new government guidance, the following protective measures will be in place in school from September:

- Regular cleaning will continue to take place during the day on door handles, handrails, table tops and other smooth surfaces, and also in the dining room at break and lunch times.
- We will continue to encourage frequent and regular hand washing, and 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' practice.
- We will maintain good ventilation in classrooms by having doors and/or windows open. This will be balanced against having a good working temperature in classrooms. Hall doors and windows will be open during assemblies.



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- It is strongly recommended that face coverings continue to be worn in communal areas. Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to wear a face covering in any area of the school should this make them feel safer.
- The Department for Education recommends that children and young people aged 11 and over continue to wear a face covering on school transport.
- Students are in normal school uniform. They will use our changing rooms for PE.
- All year groups will be able use the canteen at lunch, and we will reintroduce seating in the dining room.
- Close contacts of anyone who has a positive test will be identified via NHS Test and Trace, and education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.
- Any visits planned for next year will have the proper insurance to cover any cancellations.
- Risk assessments will be reviewed and updated for September. We will put in place an outbreak management plan.

From September 2021

Our intention is to return to 'normal' school in September. This will be without bubbles and a full return to all activities in the curriculum. We will obviously need to make some allowances for the lost learning during this year, so we will be completing several baseline tests and frequent low-stake assessments to ensure we can support progress for all learners.

It is extremely hard for me to predict where we will be with regards to the pandemic and the provision of education.

We will be slightly changing the structure of the school day. However, the day will continue to start at 8.45 and end at 3.20pm. We will start the day with pupils going straight into lesson 1 and we have moved Tutor Time to later in the day. We will be using Tutor Time to support our students back into school and to deliver a programme that will include the following - Literacy, Numeracy, Assembly, PSHE themes and reading. Again, as a reflection on the COVID provision we have decided to continue with a split lunch - to support lunchtime opportunities.

8:45 - 9:50	Lesson 1									
9:55 - 10:55	Lesson 2									
10:55- 11:15	20 min Break									
11:15 - 12:15	Lesson 3									
12:15 - 12:40	Lunch time	Year 9-13 Tutor Time		Year 9-13 Tutor Time						
12:40 - 12:50										
12:50 - 1:15	Year 7/8 Tutor Time									
1:15 - 2:15	Lesson 4									
2:20 - 3:20	Lesson 5									

PD Days

Can I remind you that the staff will be having PD days on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of September. This means the whole school reopens for education on Monday 6th September.

Year 7 induction on Friday 3rd September

If you are a Year 6 parent, I am sure you will have received information from Mr Winter about the rearranged Induction Day on Friday 3rd September. If you require further information about moving up to Thomas Adams School or details of the Induction Day – please visit our admissions section on our website - <https://thomasadams.net/admissions/>

Attendance and Absence

There is a direct link between good school attendance and high levels of attainment at school. Attendance and punctuality matter! Pupils with 100% attendance are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9 – 5 or equivalent. There are 175 non-school days each year, please try to book appointments on these days (or out of school hours) and take family holidays during school holiday periods.

We actively encourage pupils to attend school, but if they are absent for any reason, it is the parent/carers responsibility to let us know on each day of the absence. If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please speak to a member of our attendance team, your child's Head of Year, or their Form Tutor. We are here to support you at all times.

If your child's attendance falls below 94% the Local Authority will begin to monitor their attendance, and this may lead to them taking action.

For more information on attendance, please refer to the following information leaflet which is on our website: <https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Absence-appointments-in-school-time.pdf>

Uniform

In September, our uniform remains unchanged, but as I am sure you are aware we are keen to ensure all students are wearing it with pride. We will be conducting uniform checks regularly and will continue to do so throughout the new academic year. We continue to rely heavily on full parental support with uniform and thank you in advance for your help.

Plain black leather/leather look shoes are compulsory, not trainers. We also need to remind the community that piercings (other than one pair of ear studs), false eye lashes, and extended nails are not appropriate for school. There is further guidance on our school web site about acceptable items and if you are in any doubt, please contact your child's HOY prior to purchasing items for advice.

You can find full guidance on our uniform on our website and by following this link: <https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/School-Uniform-2021.pdf>

For families who may need financial support in purchasing uniform please contact school. Mr McAleavy: tm@thomasadams.net

Many thanks in advance for your continued support this year, and I very much look forward to working with you and your children in the coming year.

Mark Cooper
Headteacher