

28 June 2021



Ralph Allen School

Respect • Teamwork • Personal Best

Dear Parent/Carer,

Apologies for the disruption caused at the end of the weekend. We feel it is better to err on the side of caution until the full information is known.

On Sunday we were informed that a student had tested positive on two separate Lateral Flow Tests. (They have a PCR test booked this afternoon). We will inform you via email of this result as soon as we know it. If the PCR test comes back negative, no year 12's will need to self-isolate. Please be aware that PCR results can take up to 48 hours to come back.

Due to this positive test, I am afraid we have made the decision to isolate the whole of year 12. The year 12 bubble share before school, break and lunchtime social and study areas hence we feel we need to close the whole year group. Our model of keeping year groups in zones when not being taught in classrooms has helped year 12 return to school and have spaces to study and socialise during non-contact times, which the students have valued, but it does mean there will be more contacts. Students will be required to self-isolate until **Monday 5 July** and return to school on **Tuesday 6 July**.

This decision does not apply to the small group of students who were already in self-isolation, after year 12 mock exams, until 26 June. We will also be contacting some students who were absent during the possible contagious window which was Friday 25 June, and these students will also be allowed to attend school.

Online lessons

The timetable will now move to Microsoft Teams from tomorrow, Tuesday 29 June. Lessons will be scheduled on their Teams calendar. A timetable for online lessons is shown below and a guide to Microsoft Teams is attached. If anyone has insufficient IT to support learning, can you email Ms Fleming and we will supply the necessary hardware. (h.fleming@ralphallenschool.com).

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Tutor Time | 8.40–9am |
| Period 1 | 9.10 – 9.55am |
| Period 2 | 10.10-10.55am |
| Break | 11.10-11.30am |
| Period 3 | 11.40am -12.25pm |
| Period 4 | 12.40-1.25pm |
| Lunch | 1.40-2.15pm |
| Period 5 | 2.20-3.05pm |

We are expecting cameras to be turned on for lessons and students to attend all lessons including tutor time. Although this situation is far from ideal, we are confident that learning can continue using this method.

For those students attending school they will attend their normal lessons. The teacher will be teaching the lesson online with the students in the room.

Headteacher: Andy Greenhough BSC (Hons) | Deputy Headteacher: John Chantry BA (Hons)

Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7AD | Telephone: 01225 832936 | E-mail: enquiries@ralphallenschool.com | www.ralphallenschool.com

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If your child is unwell and unable to attend online lessons, please contact Melanie Petmezas, Sixth Form attendance administrator, m.petmezas@ralphallenschool.com or 01225 832936, ext 294.

Microsoft Teams

Students should be aware of how this works now but below are a few quick reminders.

The following guidelines will help the lesson run as smoothly as possible.

- When entering the lesson through Microsoft teams your child's microphone should be turned off. Your child's teacher will ask you to switch on their microphone as and when they require it.
- **Cameras will be turned on** allowing teachers to interact with your child. Please make sure your child's background is blurred or their background is appropriate.
- Make sure your child's devices are charged and updated to ensure they can access the lessons available to them.
- There should be no private chat conversations between students that are not specific to learning.
- Follow the Ralph Allen Way of Personal Best, Respect and Teamwork.
- Enjoy the challenge of working in a different way. Learning has many forms.
- Your child should follow their normal timetable, you will see that the start and finish times are slightly different to allow the teacher (and students in school) to have time to join Teams and move on to the next classroom.

Staff are working very hard to support students during this current isolation. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Best wishes

Andy Greenhough

Headteacher

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