



August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are looking forward to welcoming your son/daughter to Thornhill Academy for the new academic year and hope you have all enjoyed a pleasant summer. Before the start of term may I draw your attention to the following:

1. COVID-19 Close Contact Tracing

You may have seen in the press that the Government guidance has changed around the COVID-19 close contact tracing:

“From Monday 16th August, unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults 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.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate whilst awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual.

Children and young people attending an education setting and who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend their setting as normal.”

This means that contact tracing will no longer be taking place as a matter of routine in school. If your child has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 you will be contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace. **There will be no requirement for your child to be absent from school unless they develop symptoms**, in which case you should ensure a PCR test is taken as soon as possible.

2. Travel from countries on Red and Amber Lists

Parents should be mindful of Government guidance if their child is returning from a country on the red or amber list prior to returning to school. Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19> and if your child is affected following travel, please advise school as soon as possible.



Thornhill Academy

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3. Return to School

You are aware that all students must be offered COVID-19 testing on return to school and you will have received a letter with an appointment time for your child to attend for their first test. If you wish them to be tested and have not already consented, please complete the form by following the link below:

[Thornhill Academy - NHS Test & Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing](#)

Second tests will take place when pupils return to school. Return dates and times for all students are as follows:

Year 7 – Wednesday 8th September at 8.40am

Year 11 – Wednesday 8th September at 10am

Years 8 – 10 – Thursday 9th September at 8.40am

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our school switchboard on 0191 500 7981. The main school office is open daily from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm during the holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Hamilton
Head teacher

