



THE DEAN TRUST
Lord Derby Academy

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Academies Director: Mr Barry Bridden MEd MSc
Headteacher: Miss Victoria Gowan NPQH NPQEL

26th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are safe and well and that you have enjoyed a restful summer break.

I write to update you on key school information with regard to the start of the academic year 2021-2022. For further detail, please refer also to my Headteacher letter (dated 15th July 2021) and the LDA Standards & Expectations letter (dated 21st July 2021). Both of these letters are available on the school website.

Pupil return dates and times:

Thursday 2nd September 2021 – Year 7 and Year 11 pupils only on site

Year Group:	Arrival Time:	Finish Time:
Year 7	8:38am	3:00pm
Year 11	11:15am	3:00pm

Friday 3rd September 2021 – All pupils on site

Year Group:	Arrival Time:	Finish Time:
Year 7	8:38am	3:00pm
Year 11	8:38am	3:00pm
Year 8	10:00am	3:00pm
Year 9	11:15am	3:00pm
Year 10	11:45am	3:00pm

From Monday 6th September 2021 onwards, all pupils will start at 8:38am and will finish at 3:00pm.

Believe Achieve Succeed

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COVID-19 updates:

Lord Derby Academy continues to follow government guidance at all times with regard to COVID-19.

Please be aware, in line with the current government operating guidance for schools, from the start of the academic year 2021-2022 at Lord Derby Academy:

- Face coverings will be **optional** for pupils and staff. If a pupil does choose to wear a face covering, it must be a plain mask and it must be medical blue, burgundy, white, grey or black.
- Visitors coming on site will still be encouraged to wear a face covering.
- Good hygiene is crucial and pupils will be encouraged to wash their hands/use hand sanitizer frequently and to adhere to the slogan 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.
- **Pupils will no longer need to self-isolate** if they are identified as a **close contact** of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (this includes family members and people in school)
- The school is no longer responsible for Track and Trace. This is now carried out by the NHS, who will work with the positive case to identify any close contacts. Close contact pupils will be advised by NHS Track and Trace to go for a PCR test. Unless symptomatic, pupils should remain in school whilst awaiting the results of a PCR test.
- Full pupil assemblies and daily form time with Form Tutors will resume.
- An updated LDA COVID-19 Risk Assessment will be available on the school website from Wednesday 1st September 2021. Please contact me via the school office if you have any questions or comments on this Risk Assessment.

Please be advised, all COVID measures at the school are subject to continuous review and could be amended at any time in light of updated government guidance and/or a national/local/school outbreak of COVID-19.

Testing for Covid-19:

In line with government guidance, we will be testing pupils (with parental consent) for COVID-19 on their return to school in September. I appreciate that this may be a new experience for Year 7 pupils and we will support them throughout this process. Please be assured, we have been carrying out on-site testing at LDA since January 2021 with a trained testing team of staff. There is a letter providing more detail on the school website under the Pupil COVID testing section (letter dated 24th



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August 2021) and you can give consent for your child to be tested by following the link contained within the letter.

For the attention of Year 7 parents:

As Year 6 SATS did not take place this year, all Year 7 pupils will complete Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) in school week commencing 6th September 2021. CAT4 is the UK's most widely used test of reasoning abilities for children aged 6 – 17+ years. It is an assessment of developed abilities in areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement – namely verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning – and it provides an objective perspective on potential pupil achievement. The tests take approximately 2h 15min to complete and comprise of 3 individual timed assessments. **Your child does not need to prepare or revise for these tests.** Each pupil will be informed of their time slot and these assessments will be completed digitally. **For the first two weeks of term, pupils will be taught in their House Form Groups to allow for the completion of these tests.** Pupils will then start to follow their updated timetable from Monday 20th September 2021. Please be aware that setting is reviewed termly at LDA to ensure pupils remain supported and challenged appropriately throughout their time at school.

I hope this provides you with all the information you need at this stage. I am looking forward to the start of the academic year and to working alongside you in partnership to support your child on their educational journey.

Yours sincerely,

Miss V. Gowan

Headteacher

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