



Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Years 7 to 9

WGS Newsletter (52) Change to Villages arrangements (24/06/2021)

For all this year, students have remained in our villages system, which has been one of our ways of managing through the pandemic. We are now reaching the end of the school year and we are at the point where we would like to give students the experience of moving to specialist rooms again before next September. For Year 7 in particular, they have never experienced 'normal school'.

From Monday 5th July we will move to the usual model of students moving to specialist department rooms for all of their lessons. I am very aware of the rising number of cases of Covid again nationally, and in risk assessing this change we have taken this into account. There are several factors that make this move achievable. As well as home testing for staff and students, and the increased number of adults who are vaccinated, the biggest factor on July 5th is that there are very few students on site relative to the size of the site. Year 10 and 12 have exams and years 11 and 13 have left, so the school is over half empty. This makes the transitions between lessons far less busy. In addition, other schools locally have moved away from their village models, so we have useful examples to look at. These schools have not seen a rise in Covid cases as a result.

We will be asking staff and students to wear masks voluntarily again between lessons and all rooms will continue to have hand sanitizer and wipes.

With such a short time till the end of term, plus the need to balance safety and education, especially for our Key Stage 3 students who have had least access to specialist rooms, we feel that it is time to move back to specialist rooms for learning from 5th July.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher