

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

STAR MAT's Response to Testing, Self-Isolation and Contact Tracing from Monday 19 July

As outlined in Mr Yapp's letter home to families on Tuesday, as we are so close to the end of the academic year, and have had a number of positive cases of Covid-19 this week, we will not be making any significant changes to the way in which we currently operate. Below I have outlined the main procedures which we will still be following:

- The attendance of students at school remains compulsory. We do, therefore, expect all students to remain in attendance until the end of the academic year (Friday 23rd July);
- Students will continue to operate in their 'bubbles' until the end of the academic year;
- Students will continue to wear face coverings inside/outside of classrooms, including on school/public transport;
- Students will continue to wash their hands on entry to school and use hand sanitiser provided elsewhere;
- Increased cleaning regimes will continue to be in place;
- Classrooms and communal spaces will continue to be well ventilated to allow for the flow of fresh air.

Contact Tracing

Due to the high number of positive cases across North Yorkshire schools we have been directed by Public Health Yorkshire, to operate our current system of Contact Tracing until the end of term:

*"... given the increasing COVID rates across North Yorkshire districts, and taking into account the number of COVID incidents in education, **we are asking all schools to continue internal contact tracing for the last week of term**, which will support the current gap until 16th August when self-isolation guidance for under-18s changes."*

Clearly, we all hope that the final week of term is not tainted by positive cases, and that we get to celebrate with our wonderful students.

On Site Lateral Flow Testing in September

Plans are well underway for the return to "normality" in September – from our brand-new gym and changing rooms, hot meals at lunch, snacks at break, the opening of a new Year 7 dining room and a return to specialist classrooms – there is much to look forward to. I will write early next week with more details.

I do, however, need to share with you that in line with the government guidance, we will be offering all students two, on site lateral flow tests as part of their return to school. (These tests are slightly different in that students will only need to swab their noses).

In order to conduct these tests new consent forms are required. The forms can be accessed [HERE](#).

Unfortunately, to be able to carry out on site testing, we will need to stagger the start of term.

Students will be invited to attend the on-site testing unit as part of their first day on site.

Our plans for the start of term are:

Monday 6th September	Tuesday 7th September	Wednesday 8th September	Thursday 9th September	Friday 10th September
Yr 12 Induction Day Yr 13 invited for their first LFT	Day one for Years 7 and 8	Day one for Years 10 and 11 Day two for Years 7 and 8	Day one for Year 9 ALL years in school	ALL years in school

Keeping our Students Safe

REPORT REMOVE – is a new tool to empower children and young people to stop spread of nude images online. Created by Childline and Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), the tool helps children and young people report a nudge image or video of themselves that has been shared online. IWF can then take steps to remove it from the internet. Importantly, a young person can even report an image/video that hasn't been uploaded and shared. The IWF will assign a 'hash' (a digital fingerprint) to prevent the image being uploaded by anyone.

'Report Remove', can be found [HERE](#).

MONKEY – North Yorkshire Police have alerted us to an app is called 'Monkey' which allows users to make video calls to strangers. Once a conversation is finished, the user clicks next and it will then connect them to a different user which could be someone from anywhere in the world. The website states that users must be 18 plus but there is no age verification on the either platform meaning anyone could download it.

The app is currently only available on android devices. Whilst testing the platform, reviewers found that every second or third video was a male masturbating, with some attempts to interact. There are countless examples of adverts for sex, pornography and bestiality. The unpredictability of the content is likely to increase the shock factor and harmful impact as users have no idea what will appear. It is designed to attract children- Everything, from the name, to the graphics on the platform suggest this is created to attract children.

In Google Play Store, its description reads 'Make friends and chat to celebrities' and the app has copied TikTok's vertical style video feed. The location of each user is shared publicly (country and town/city) and there is no option to block this. You cannot use the app/website without having your camera on. There are screenshots of Monkey on Instagram as well as Monkey having their own TikTok account meaning young people may be driven to the site.

A Reminder About Arrangements for Next Week:

Arrangements for Friday 23rd July

- Students may attend school in non-uniform
- Students will go to period 1, 2 and 3
- Students will return to form for period 4 and any student who has ordered lunch will receive it during period 4.
- Students may bring snacks to enjoy during period 4.
- Students will be dismissed from school from 12 p.m. with the final year group being dismissed at 12.15 p.m. and buses will be here at this time

Extra-Curricular PE Clubs

To enable the PE department to pack up the temporary gym, we are sorry but there will be no extra-curricular clubs taking place next week.

STAR MAT Summer Newsletter

Accompanying this letter home is a copy of the STAR MAT's Summer Newsletter – I'm sure everyone will enjoy not only celebrating the achievements of our fantastic students, but also reflecting upon the achievements of all students within our MAT; it's quite something, when you consider the year we have had all had.

And finally...

Despite everything, this morning's Period One was such joy as throughout the school all that could be heard was Mrs Marsh reading out the Sherbies nominations. As always, we are so proud of all our students, and selecting a few for nominations was almost impossible – I can't wait to find out who the winners are next week!

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher
Sherburn High School