Parentmail 15.07.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have started planning for September, but we are still waiting for updated guidance from the government. I hope to be able to write to you in mid august with a clearly detailed plan for how we are going to reopen safely in September.

As I explained in last week's parent mail, there are some changes we are putting in place for September 2021. New Year 7 and the sixth form will be based on lower site whilst all other year groups will be based on Upper site. We are carrying out works on both lower site and upper site to ensure that everything is in place for students. There will be no staff available for the first two weeks of the holidays which are the weeks beginning the 19th and 26th of July. I know from your many messages that you have really appreciated how hard staff have worked to help and support your children. It has been exhausting year for you and the families as well. I hope you have a lovely summer with time to rest and recuperate.

God Bless.

Mrs Lennon

School Uniform/ Donations of old uniform

A reminder to parents/carers that pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform from September. Uniform is available from School time and the list is on our website. We have had many requests from families for help with school uniform. If you have any old uniform which your children do not need, please can you donate it via the box in the outside section of upper site reception. You will not need to come into school in order to do this and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Free School Meals

The last 16 months have been very difficult for everyone and we recognise that personal circumstances may have changed during this time. There is support available if your circumstances have changed. Every pupil entitled to free school meals will have lunch provided for them, as well as this, additional funds are used in school across a range of strategies.

Please see below for a link to the Medway Council page on how to apply for free school meals.

To apply for free school meals, you will need the following information.

- your name
- your date of birth
- contact details
- your national insurance number or national asylum seekers number
- child's name
- child's date of birth
- school your child is attending or will attend

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200164/school_information/354/free_school_meals

Year 7, 8,9, 10 and 12 Summer School

To all parents and carers,

As mentioned in last week's Parent Mail the school is running a Summer School for all current pupils. This will include a mixture of academic, creative and teamwork sessions.

The days for each year group are stated below -

Year group	Day
7	2nd August
8	3rd August
9	4th August
10	5th August
12	6th August

Timings of the day

The day will run between 9am until 3pm and will be on the Ordnance Street site (ME4 6SG). We ask that pupils start to arrive at 8.45am and enter through the gate at the top of Charles Street. Pupils will be dismissed through the same gate at 3pm.

Attire

Pupils do not need to wear uniform or PE kit during the day. There are some cooking activities and active sessions, so it is recommended that pupils wear comfortable clothes for the day. It is also recommended that they wear trainers or comfortable shoes for the day.

Packed lunch

There is no provision for food on site during the Summer School so pupils will need to have a packed lunch sent in with them. Pupils will also be able to eat the food they prepare during the cooking session. There will be access to drinking water so pupils should bring a bottle to use throughout the day. Any pupils entitled to Free School Meals will have lunch provided for them on the day.

Cooking session

The cooking session is using ingredients that are non-allergenic. If your child does have an intolerance or allergy to any food item, please email Mr Bowers on the email address below.

If you have any questions about the Summer School, please email Mr Bowers (s.bowers@stjohnfisher.school).

Yours Sincerely

Mr Bowers
Assistant Headteacher

Medway Go

Dear Parent/Carer

Sign up for free summer holiday activity clubs this summer!

We are writing to let you know about an exciting opportunity for children aged 5 to 15 who are receive benefits-related free school meals to attend free summer activity clubs taking place in Medway this July and August.

Children will be able to access a variety of sessions everyday throughout the summer holidays. The Department for Education has provided funding to all local authorities in England so that they can offer eligible children free activities and a tasty and nourishing meal this summer.

These activity sessions are optional, and a great way of children making new friends, taking part in a physical activity and being engaged over the summer holidays.

The clubs are being run by Medway Council in partnership with local organisations including Medway Sport, Fuzion Active, Street Soccer Foundation and Premier Education.

Because all children are different, each club will offer a different set of fun activities, from sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities for children to try new things.

How to book a place for your child

If you are eligible for free-school meals, visit the website https://go.medway.gov.uk , where you can register yourself and your children on the MedwayGo website and book onto the broad range of activities available.

If you have any enquiries about these activity clubs, please email go@medway.gov.uk and we will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Julia Thomas

Senior Public Health Manager

Medway Council

Medway Youth Service's Summer Program

Medway Youth Service's Summer Program is now available on our website. The range of activities on offer include planning Summer Dayz, park-based activities, where young people aged 8+ can join in with a range of multi-sports, games, arts and crafts and other activities.

We are also running a selection of bookable group work projects including:

- Street Soccer Multi-Sports
- Guitar Jam
- Design your own game
- Arts and crafts
- Skateboard design
- The Big Camp

- SHINE activity days (for young people with additional needs)

Places can be booked for young people by clicking here to complete this form.

On top of this, most of our existing program will continue to run. Details are available here and interest can be registered here

If you would like to keep up to date with the what the Youth Service doing, we have a quarterly newsletter (subscription is available at the bottom of the page)

Roy Smith | Operations Manager | Medway Council – Youth Service

Up Beat! Singing Club

Thank you to all the fabulous singers who are attending already.

We still have spaces if any Year 7 or 8 pupils would like to join, please email Mr Bowers (s.bowers@stjohnfisher.school) for more details.

Covid Testing: Lateral Flow Testing at Home

Your daughter/son should have received a new test kit.

Each box contains the items for 7 home tests and an instruction booklet. The following NHS video guidance is also useful in explaining how to conduct the test at home – https://youtu.be/S9XR8RZxKNo.

It is advised that a test is conducted twice a week. We suggest the test is taken every Sunday and Wednesday evening. You are required to report the result of home lateral tests using the Covid-19 test result website (https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) regardless if the test result is positive, negative or void.

As a school, we are also asked to track this information, so we ask that you please complete the following form to log your child's result – https://stjohnfisher.school/wp-content/Covid-Result-Login/ . This is so that we can keep a record and advise you of the next steps if needed. Your child will need to use their normal school 'log-in' to access the site and their normal school password.

These lateral flow tests are for students with no symptoms only. If you child develops symptoms at any time, such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, they must immediately self-isolate, and you will need to book a test by calling 119 or visiting https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirustest .

If your child's result from a lateral flow test or a PCR test is positive, please ensure you contact the school's attendance officer immediately.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

Support services for Parents and Carers of children and young people in Medway

We have been asked by Medway to share the link below with any parents/carers/guardians across Medway.

It is specifically for Medway parents, but people can still respond if they live outside of Medway.

This follows on from the Medway Parenting Support Strategy and is for Parents and Carers to tell us what they would like to see in their local communities with regards support services.

If you are a Medway Parent or carer yourself, you can also complete it of course! It is very brief and simple to complete.

https://forms.office.com/r/21EfwkxN1V

A message from Arriva

Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution!

Arriva Student Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education. You will get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, across all our routes in your chosen area.

The Saver tickets will not only cover your travel to and from University, School or College, but can also be used to travel in the evenings, at weekends and throughout the holidays too.

Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

*Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit: www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets

To ensure delivery of tickets in time for the start of the new Academic Year, we recommend registering now.

Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone. This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk