



Sent via Email:

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Monday, 24th May 2021

Dear Parents,

The UK vaccination programme is proceeding incredibly well. Over 60 million doses of the vaccine have been administered (first and second doses) and over 70% of the adult population has received at least one shot of the Moderna, Pfizer or Astra-Zeneca vaccine. It is anticipated that within the next month all those aged eighteen or over will have been invited to receive a vaccine. Infection rates remain low and hospitalisations are increasingly rare because the vast majority of those who are elderly or vulnerable have been fully vaccinated. There is understandable caution regarding the transmission of new variants but a high level of confidence in the efficacy of the vaccines thus far.

As you are aware, the Rossall Roadmap reflects government guidance and provides an additional degree of contextual caution which is appropriate to the unique nature of our School community. I am delighted that we are making such sustained progress and the full return of sports and many other co-curricular activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been an absolute joy.

From Monday 17th May, parents and visitors have been permitted to enter the School site so long as our strict protocols are followed. Our admissions team have resumed tours for prospective parents though these are very carefully managed. However, we are still using thermal imaging cameras and insisting upon the wearing of masks in classrooms. All activities are risk assessed and regular testing and social distancing are still features of School life. School trips and excursions have resumed and sectional assemblies are still taking place in the Chapel. It is now time to turn our attention to the next stage of our roadmap which will commence upon our return from the Half Term break.

It is the case that the final decision to relax any of the measures and protocols that are currently in place will be predicated upon a rigorous analysis of data that is both current and relevant to this area of Lancashire. Consequently, whilst I am happy to outline the steps that we intend to take over forthcoming weeks, it should be understood that we will only proceed if the level of risk remains minimal.



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*From Monday 7th June, we hope to introduce the following changes:*

- 1. Day pupils will be permitted to return to boarding houses.** Initially, they will only be allowed to use communal facilities (such as the common room) on the Ground Floor. Kitchens, bathrooms and the bedrooms of boarders will remain out-of-bounds until the beginning of the new academic year. Similarly, study facilities will not be reinstated until September because we have had to provide single-occupancy rooms for boarders throughout this period. In order to ensure an orderly and safe re-integration, pupils will be invited into Houses on a year group basis.
- 2. Nationally, facemasks are no longer compulsory in classes** though children are permitted to wear them if they would like to do so. Currently, Lancashire Council, has extended the expectation that children should wear facemasks in classrooms though we presume that this will be relaxed at Half Term. Should it not be, then we will abide by local guidance.
- 3. Gradual shift away from single occupancy rooms for boarders in Years 9, 10, 11.** We will no longer guarantee single occupancy rooms for all of our boarding pupils in lower years. This was only ever supposed to be a temporary measure and it is unsustainable given the popularity of the School and high student roll. We will work with individual families to ensure that parents and pupils are happy with any proposed changes on this front. In most cases, such changes will not come into effect until September 2021.
- 4. Return of town leave for boarders.** Town leave for boarders will be reinstated and Emma Williams (Acting Deputy Head Pastoral) will publish new protocols and procedures ahead of the start of the second half of term. Please note that town leave will be very tightly controlled with new expectations in place for pupils in Years 9, 10, 11. This will include the use of a mobile phone app for younger children such as *Life360*.
- 5. Return of overnight School trips.** School visits and trips are an essential component of a Rossall education and these will begin to resume as we move towards the end of term.
- 6. Full staff meetings to take place in person.** By early June, the vast majority of our teaching staff will have been fully vaccinated. It is fifteen months since we met together (in-person) as a staff body and we are looking forward to resuming staff meetings and INSET without the need for Zoom.
- 7. Chapel services and full assemblies.** If national guidelines permit, we intend for whole school chapel services to resume before the end of term. There will be no congregational singing until at least 21st June.
- 8. All lessons will return to departmental teaching areas.** Throughout much of this year, we have sought to minimise movement around the school site. This has been extremely difficult to manage as departmental staff have been isolated from colleagues and separated from the resources of their everyday teaching environment. From the 21st June, all lessons will be taught within the appropriate departmental area. As Year 11 and Year 13 will have completed their examinations and learning programmes, there will be a significantly reduced flow of pupils around the school site and so we consider this to be an apposite moment to return to more normal practice.



Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have worked very closely with staff, pupils and parents to ensure that we minimise risk and maximise educational benefit. We will continue to listen very carefully to all members of our community and we will continue to make decisions that are informed by government guidance, scientific data and our own understanding of what is best for our community at any given moment in time.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss any aspects of our Roadmap then please do contact me or Dina Porovic (Senior Deputy Head) [d.porovic@rossall.org.uk](mailto:d.porovic@rossall.org.uk)

We are looking forward to welcoming all parents back to School as soon as possible. Remaining restrictions are likely to be lifted on 21st June and we hope that Prize Day and the Leavers' Ball will both proceed as planned on Saturday, 26th June.

All best wishes,



Jeremy Quartermain  
Headmaster

