

Monday 27th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am happy to report that our students have made a great start to the academic year. Our success as a school depends on the quality of relationships and it is really pleasing that recent visitors to the school identify that this remains a strength at South. For example, we hosted a visit from Bristol school leaders last week who shared with us that they thought the behaviour and attitudes of students inside and outside of lessons was excellent. In short, they thought our students were amazing. This is something the whole school community should take great pride in.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support with the COVID testing. The overwhelming majority of students completed the two tests in school at the start of term and we ask that students continue to test twice per week up until half term. We are monitoring the COVID situation carefully and have contingency plans in place to minimise any potential disruption. In the meantime, hand sanitiser is widely available around the school site and we are ensuring that all classrooms are well ventilated.

With three weeks of the term completed, here are some of the things that have been happening at South and some important information.

Covid-19 self-isolation

The following poster is a useful reminder of the criteria for self-isolation:



Covid-19: Self-Isolation **NHS**
Test and Trace

When do I need to self-isolate?

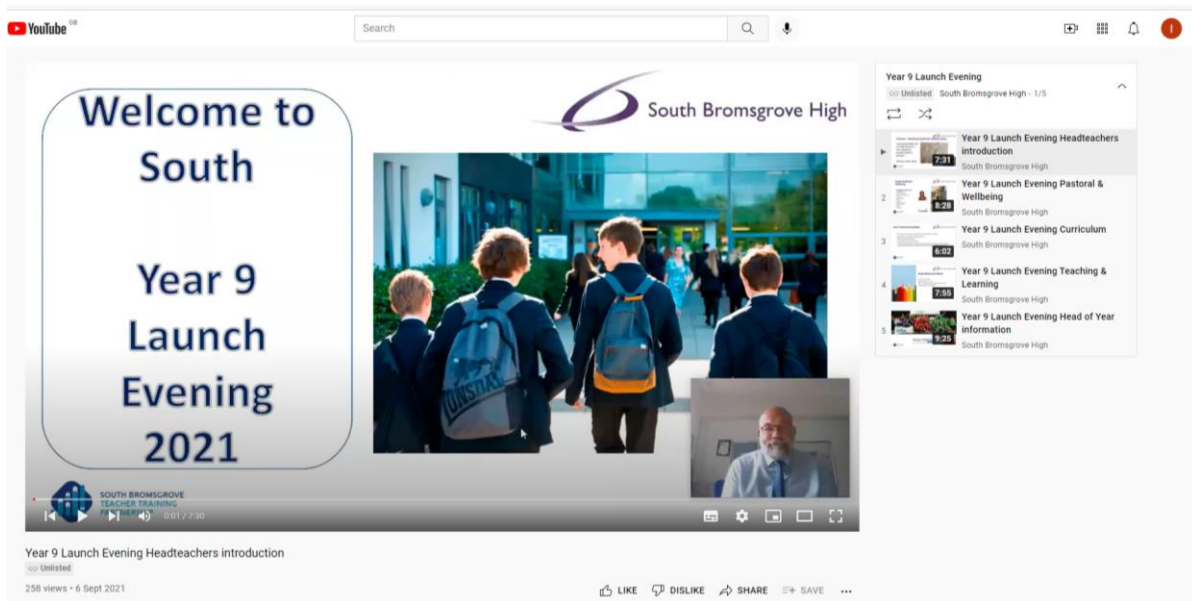
To keep life moving and stop Covid-19 from spreading further, it's still important to self-isolate when you're asked to.

There are new rules from 16 August:

Should I self-isolate if...	
Q I've tested positive for Covid-19?	A YES: You need to self-isolate, even if you've been vaccinated
Q I'm double-jabbed or I'm under 18 - and I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive?	A NO: You do not need to self-isolate BUT: We advise you to take a PCR test, and you need to self-isolate if it's positive
Q I've had either one or no jabs and I'm 18 or over - and I've been in contact with someone who's tested positive?	A YES: You need to self-isolate
Q I have symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste)?	A YES: You should self-isolate and take a PCR test, even if you've been vaccinated

gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works

'Launch Evenings'



Our 'launch evenings' are an opportunity for members of the Senior Leadership Team to set the scene for each year group and share key information for the coming year. This year, we have recorded these and then made them available over the last few weeks. If you want to revisit these they are available on the school's YouTube channel: [South Bromsgrove High - Virtual Launch Evenings](#)

Open Evening

Open Evening is on Thursday 30th September from 6.30-8.30 and school will close early that day at 2.10pm (the end of period 4). As always, we are incredibly grateful to the large number of students who volunteer to help out as guides or within departments. **Any students attending the Open Evening in this capacity should be in school uniform and other students should not attend.**

In order to make the event safe and manageable for all involved, we have made some important changes. This includes requesting that only the parents/carers and the child attend the event to prevent overcrowding and to ensure the event is comfortable for everyone. Also, we ask that parents and carers attending the event take a Lateral Flow Device test before coming in and not to attend if they are suffering COVID-19 symptoms. I am sure this face-to-face event will be a huge success.

Introduction to our Head Student Teams



The Head Student Team play an active and varied role in the whole-school community, including representing the school at events such as Open Evening, chairing student council meetings and leading on initiatives to improve the experiences of students in the school. This year, the team are:

Head Students: Mya Strobel and Joe Roberts (pictured above).

Deputy Head Students: Cory Kirkpatrick, Izzy Evans, Jack Mansell and Jack Hudson.



The Head Students from Year 11 have a very important role within the student body. They represent the school at important events and this involves talking with students from other schools, parents/carers and visitors. Their unique perspective on school life allows them to talk confidently and honestly, and their opinions and suggestions on school development are taken seriously by the staff and trustees of the school.

Year 11 Head Students: Naomi Curtis, Finlay Creed and Faith Taylor (picture above).

Sixth Form Wellbeing Ambassadors

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have been at work supporting the new Year 9 during Transition Day, helping tutors to settle the new students on their first day at South. These Sixth Form volunteers are allocated to specific year groups and they meet up with students who we feel would benefit from some peer mentor support. They can help to guide and reassure students who might be struggling with things such as exam stress, friendships, and anything that might be causing a student to feel unsettled in school. They will also be hosting lunchtime activities and will be on hand at Open Evening to meet and greet Year 8 students.

The Wellbeing Ambassadors are clearly identified by their yellow lanyards and below are the team who are specifically assigned to Year 10: Emily, Sophie, Keiva, Sam and Alisha.



Safeguarding

Should you have a safeguarding concern, please use the following contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead at South Bromsgrove High School: Kristy Pascoe, e-mail:
pa@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

Worcestershire Children First: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrensocialcare>

Refer to Children's Social Care: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenreferral>

The Family Front Door: 01905 822666 - to report a concern

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk

Here2Help Worcestershire: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

Upcoming events

- Tuesday 28th October – 'Milestones Evening' for post 16 choices (virtual event)
- Thursday 30th September – Open Evening
- Friday 1st October – Professional Development Day – school closed to students
- Wednesday 20th October – Year 13 reports issued

Those are the key events which take us up to the autumn half term break.

Best wishes and take care,



Chris Smith
Headteacher