



# Queen Katharine Academy

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

## **Step-4 (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July) onwards**

The government announced Step-4 of their roadmap on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July that included easing of restrictions and changes in contact-tracing from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Government guidance from Step-4, i.e. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 onwards, can be found using the following links.

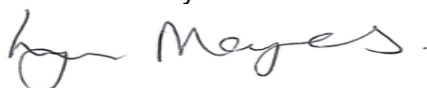
- [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)
- [www.gov.uk/government/publications/action-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/action-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

I would kindly like to take this opportunity to make you aware of the changes in contact-tracing and how it will affect you and your child.

- *Government guidance stipulates that all settings will only need to do close contact tracing up to Step-4 (19<sup>th</sup> July 2021) of the roadmap. From Step-4 (19<sup>th</sup> July 2021) onwards, close contact tracing will be identified via NHS test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake close contact tracing. Educational settings may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.*
- *From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under the age of 18-years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. All individuals are encouraged to take a PCR test if advised to do so. 18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4-months after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.*
- *Settings will continue to have a role in working with the health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.*

Thank you in advance for your ongoing understanding and co-operation.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Lynn Mayes - Principal**

