

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the Christmas holidays, and in light of the government's announcement about secondary schools yesterday, I am writing to update you on some important information about our Covid-19 arrangements. I hope that this will be the last letter you receive from me on this subject in 2020!

Over the first few days of the holiday, is very important for you to inform us immediately if your child has a positive Covid-19 test result. This is because other children in your child's class, as well as their teachers and support staff, may also need to self-isolate under the guidance from Public Health England. From Saturday 19th December to Wednesday 23rd December, if your child has a positive Covid-19 test result, we ask that you email covid@kingswolverhampton.co.uk and give the details of your child's case, including the date of symptoms, test date and the date you received the test result. Thank you.

Yesterday evening, the Department for Education (DfE) sent out an update to schools. This essentially outlined the information shared on national and regional news channels that **only Year 11 and 13 students, children of key workers and 'vulnerable' children will return to school on Tuesday 5th January** (4th January is a training day). We will be contacting the parents and carers of pupils who fall into the 'vulnerable' group. If you are a key worker and your child is in one of the year groups not required to return on 5th January and you would like them to come into school, please can you email keyworker@kingswolverhampton.co.uk by midday on Monday 4th January so that provision can be made?

Pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will therefore, be returning to school on Monday 11th January. During the first week of term (5th- 8th January), pupils in Year 10 and 12 will have online lessons. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 should follow the online curriculum as directed by their teachers and work will be set and submitted through Class Charts. Pupils in Year 9 should also follow the online curriculum (i.e. Class Charts), although some live lessons will also be delivered depending on the subject. It is very important that your child checks their emails regularly throughout the day so that they are clear about what is expected. When Year 9 return on 11th January, they will begin their exams week as planned.

According to the DfE, the reason for the staggered start is so that schools can offer free coronavirus testing. We appreciate that there is a need for more information on this, but unfortunately, we are still waiting for detailed guidance from the Department. This information will be shared with you as soon as it becomes available and we are clear what is expected of schools.

There is clearly a real concern nationally that the relaxation of restrictions over the Christmas period will lead to a **possible spike in Covid-19 cases in January and February**. As a school community, we wish to take all possible steps to ensure that this is prevented. Ideally, regardless of the government plans for testing in schools, **we would like all pupils to have been tested before they come back to school on the 5th or the 11th of January**. The City of Wolverhampton Council's Civic Centre is available for people **without symptoms** and is open from 8am to 7pm weekdays, 10am to Saturdays and Sundays. This mass testing centre can provide results in as little as 30 minutes.

Telephone: 01902 558333 Email: admin@kingswolverhampton.co.uk
twitter.com/kingsschoolwlv - facebook.com/kingswolverhampton



If you develop symptoms at any time – a fever, a new continuous cough or a change in taste and smell – then you must isolate and book a test at one of the regular Covid-19 test centres in Wolverhampton by calling 119.

What is crucial is that when the spring term begins, **you must not send your child in to school whilst anyone in your household has symptoms**. There have been a number of breaches of this rule over the past few weeks and this puts the whole school community at risk. For many of us, our natural instinct when faced with a winter 'cold' is to carry on as normal and just 'get on with it!' The advice from the Public Health team is that we must all lower our threshold and treat any cold, flu or Covid-19 symptoms, however minor, very seriously and follow the self-isolation guidance. It is much better to be overcautious where Covid-19 is concerned.

With a whole school community approach and continued high standards and expectations of each other, we can do everything possible to avoid a spike in cases in the spring term.

Finally, I hope that all have a safe and enjoyable holiday. I would ask that you continue to reiterate the importance of following the Covid-19 restrictions, including severely limiting any mixing with people from other households, even though these restrictions have been slightly relaxed between 23rd and 27th December. For any clarification on the general restrictions and Covid-19 procedures, please see the latest information and guidance available around coronavirus at GOV.UK and on the council's [coronavirus pages](#). Details of the Tier restrictions currently in place, and the answers to frequently asked questions are available at [Covid Alert](#).

I will write again on Monday 4th January with an update on our plans for the first few weeks of term. I hope what I have set out above will give you some clarity regarding this and further details will be provided when we have received the updated guidance from the DfE.

Once again, I wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

James Ludlow
Principal