

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a very peaceful and relaxing break in spite of all the bleak news about the spread of the new strain of the virus and the anxiety and misery this is causing. No doubt it has been a very different Christmas and New Year in many ways, however I hope you have had the chance to take a break and enjoy the festive season. I hope that those members of our school community who were ill before Christmas have made a good recovery and are feeling much stronger and that everyone is safe and well. And most of all, I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year as we pray that the roll out of the vaccine will fill us all with a sense of security and normality once again.

Following the government's announcement earlier this week and the region's move into Tier 4, I wanted to update you on how this will affect us as a school over the next few weeks. There are some important changes to the letter that I sent out on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Our plan for the re-opening of school over the next few weeks is as follows:

**Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is our Training Day and school will be closed to pupils – there will be no remote learning set.

From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, only the children of key workers and our identified vulnerable children should attend school. All other pupils will be working remotely from home. If you are a key worker and would like your child to attend school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, please could you email the school using the following address, [keyworker@kingswolverhampton.co.uk](mailto:keyworker@kingswolverhampton.co.uk), so that we can plan accordingly.

All other pupils will be working remotely, at home, from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January:

- Pupils in Years 11 and 13 will have their lessons delivered live on MS Teams all week
- Pupils in Years 10 and 12 will be set work on Class Charts on Tuesday and Wednesday, then we will move to live teaching on MS Teams from Thursday & Friday
- Pupils in Years 7-9 will have work set for them on Class Charts all week

Please note that there have been some small timetable changes for certain year groups in preparation for the start of this new term so we would advise all pupils to check their timetables for the spring term on the VLE as soon as they can. Please also note that the first week back (From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021) will be 'Week 2' of our school timetable.

If your child is unable to access to online learning, either due to the lack of a suitable device or internet access please get in touch with Mr Sutton, Vice-Principal, on the following email address:  
[p.sutton@kingswolverhampton.co.uk](mailto:p.sutton@kingswolverhampton.co.uk)

**Week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January:**

Telephone: 01902 558333 Email: [admin@kingswolverhampton.co.uk](mailto:admin@kingswolverhampton.co.uk)  
[twitter.com/kingsschoolwlv](https://twitter.com/kingsschoolwlv) - [facebook.com/kingswolverhampton](https://facebook.com/kingswolverhampton)



From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, pupils in Years 11 and 13 will return to school for face to face teaching. They will follow their normal timetable, in school.

Pupils in all other year groups will remain at home and will receive live teaching on MS Teams, except when it is their lateral flow testing day, when the work will be set on Class Charts (see below)

Please note, this will be 'Week 1' of the school timetable.

**Week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January:**

From Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, the plan is that all pupils will return to school to follow their normal timetable.

**Exams:**

Y12 & 13 BTEC External Exams on 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January, will all go ahead as planned and students should arrive at school in good time for these exams.

Pupils in Year 9 should note that their exam week will now take place on the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> January. The daily timetable for the exams will be the same as originally planned as this is also 'Week 1' of the school timetable. Pupils should continue to engage in reading and revision using the guidance and resources sent out before the end of last term.

**Mass testing for pupils:**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the government announced that it would like schools to set up a mass testing programme for pupils and staff, in order to reduce the chance of virus transmission within school. Further detailed guidance has since been issued by the Department for Education and training will take place for staff next week.

To be clear, testing for staff and pupils is optional although it is strongly encouraged for all. Despite the logistical challenge that this presents, we have a plan in place that will see all pupils offered the chance to have two tests as they return to school (spaced out by 3-5 days). The plan also allows for regular, daily testing of pupils, should they be identified as a possible close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (rather than being sent home to self-isolate).

The following days have been set aside for the testing of all our pupils as they return to school:

- Vulnerable/Key Worker pupils – 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 7 – 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- Year 8 – 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- Year 9 – 15<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 10 – 14<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 11 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 12 – 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 13 – 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January

Individual letters will be sent out to year groups early next week. These letters will seek parental permission for the test to take place and give details of the precise dates and times and logistical arrangements for the test.

**Social distancing and hygiene:**

As we return to school after the Christmas break, it is more important than ever that we maintain our standards of hygiene and distancing in order to prevent the spread of the disease and that we all follow the stringent measures that have been in place since September. This, coupled with the comprehensive testing programme, should allow us to keep down the risk of virus transmission within school. As usual, it is really

important that we continue to demonstrate our school values by taking our **responsibility** seriously and showing **respect** for all other members of the school community by doing everything we can to keep each other safe.

This includes, not coming into school if your child, or anyone in your household, is displaying symptoms of the virus. The advice from Public Health is to really lower our threshold and treat even minor symptoms as a possible coronavirus infection. Anyone with even the mildest symptoms should self-isolate and book a PCR Covid-19 test as soon as possible.

Finally, we will be asking your child's Form Tutor to make a phone call home to pupils in their tutor group throughout this first week back in order to check that everything is okay, that they are accessing their online learning and that they are clear about the plans for coronavirus testing and returning to school.

I am sure that we are all hanging on to the good news about the vaccines and praying that with a concerted effort to engage in testing and remain strict about hygiene and distancing, we can limit the spread of the virus. In the not too distant future we will be able put it all behind us and regain a sense of normality and enjoy full social interaction once more. I am optimistic that the end is now in sight and am confident that, having brilliantly risen to the challenges thrown at us throughout this pandemic as a school community, we can rise to this latest challenge and help to ensure that we are all kept safe.

As usual, do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. I will keep you updated if there are any further changes to the government guidelines over the next few days and weeks.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

James Ludlow  
Principal