

13th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our plans for a full re-opening to all pupils in September

I hope that you are well and coping with the on-going restrictions and changes to our way of life brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is really hard to believe that we haven't been fully open as a school since the middle of March, some four months ago.

As a school community we are all too aware that this has been a very difficult time for a lot of our families and staff. Members of our school family have suffered illness and bereavement or have faced economic hardship and concerns about job security and future prospects. Others have faced anxiety or loneliness and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by the pandemic. We will continue to offer emotional and practical support those who are in need. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us here at school if there is anything that we can do to help.

As the end of term approaches, I am writing to update you on our plans for a full re-opening to all pupils in September. Last Thursday the government announced that schools must re-open fully from the beginning of the autumn term and that attendance for all school-aged pupils would become compulsory once again. This is really good news and all of us here at The King's are delighted at the prospect of fully reconnecting and re-engaging with our pupils and with you as parents and carers.

Pupils in Years 10 and 12 who have already returned to us for lessons will know that our ways of operating in school are far from 'normal' and that strict systems and hygiene routines are fully implemented. This will continue in September when all pupils return however some further adaptations and control measures will also be implemented in order to allow the full curriculum to be delivered to all pupils whilst adhering to the safety requirements outlined by the government.

A summary of the changes that will be implemented from September:

Below is a list of the main areas that will affect all pupils. There will be a dedicated section of the school website for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and further details. If you do have a specific question about our re-opening arrangements then this can be emailed to the following email account: covid19enquiries@kingswolverhampton.co.uk. This will be the only school email account that is regularly monitored throughout the school holidays.

The overarching aim of our full re-opening strategy is to ensure that year groups are operating in 'bubbles' and that there is no mixing of year groups within the school grounds. In order to achieve this, there are some important changes that are needed to our school systems and processes.

The school day:

The school day will begin at the later time of 9.15am for all pupils. This is to allow plenty of time for pupils to get to school and avoid overcrowding on public transport.

The new timings of the school days will be:

Form Time:	9.15 – 9.30
Period 1	9.30 - 10.20
Period 2	10.20 – 11.10
Break Time	11.10 – 11.40
Period 3	11.40 – 12.30
Period 4	12.30 – 1.20
Lunch Time	1.20 – 2.00
Period 5	2.00 – 2.45
Period 6	2.45 – 3.30

Staggered start the year:

We are aware that some pupils may feel anxious about returning to school and that all pupils will need time to get used to the new ways of working and the safety measures that are in place. As a result, we are phasing year groups into school over the course of the first week back in September.

Monday 31st August:

Bank Holiday Monday – school closed

Tuesday 1st September:

Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils

Wednesday 2nd September:

Years 7, 8, 10 and 12 only to attend school – all other year groups will be working remotely at home.

- Year 7 & 8 to start at 9.15am
- Year 10 to start at 11.40am
- Year 12 to start at 2.00pm for induction and enrolment

Thursday 3rd September:

Years 9, 11 and 13 only to attend school – all other year groups will be working remotely at home.

- Year 9 to start at 9.15am
- Year 11 to start at 11.40am
- Year 13 to start at 2.00pm

Friday 4th September:

All year groups will be in school following the revised school day timings (see above).

The Curriculum:

In line with government guidance we will be providing our full curriculum to all pupils with a timetable that is as near to normal as possible. Teaching spaces and social areas will be zoned into year group 'bubbles' so that different year groups will not be moving around the school and mixing with one another. The only exception to this will be creative and science lessons where pupils will move to specialist classrooms and areas of the school building, but again, there will be no mixing of pupils in different year groups. All lessons will be taught as double periods in order to minimise pupil movement around the school. As much as is practically possible, pupils will remain within their allocated area of school for all of their lessons and it is the teachers who will move to different classrooms according to the timetable.

Staff are working hard ensure that they adapt and focus their teaching in September so that they are building on the work that pupils have completed over the last few months and addressing the areas of greatest need as a priority. Clear planning will allow opportunities for pupils to revisit prior learning and fully reconnect with the skills and knowledge within each subject area.

In order to maximise teaching time throughout the year we will, for one year only, be **removing the early closure on Week 2 Wednesday. School will now finish at 3.30pm on all days of the week.**

Teachers will continue to set extended learning for all pupils from September in order to complement the work that is being completed in school.

Equipment for learning:

Being equipped for learning is more important than ever given the restrictions on sharing and loaning resources that will be in place. All pupils must have their own basic equipment as outlined on our school website. Where shared equipment will be used, in lessons such as music, PE and ICT, we are implementing enhanced cleaning procedures between lessons to ensure that it is safe to use.

School Uniform:

Pupils in all year groups are expected to wear their full school uniform from the start of the autumn term. This includes PE lessons. High uniform standards and full compliance with our dress code is expected from everyone. Full details of our uniform policy are available on the school website.

It is also worth noting that pupils will be outside at break and lunchtimes as much as possible and so we would encourage them to bring an outdoor coat to school.

School Meals:

Food will be available at break and lunchtimes and we will be encouraging parents to use our cashless system through ParentPay - further details are available on our website. We are looking to provide as near to a normal food service as possible whilst ensuring that our social distancing and hygiene measures are fully in place. Further details will be available before the start of the autumn term.

Attendance:

Full attendance will be expected from all pupils unless they are ill. Please call the school to report an absence in the usual way if your child is ill.

Pupils showing symptoms of Covid-19:

Please do not send your child into school if they or someone in their family is displaying symptoms of the virus or have tested positive in the last 7 days. We will ensure that anyone developing those symptoms during the school day (including a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell), is sent home as soon as we have made contact with you as parents and carers to arrange this.

Once a pupil has been sent home with coronavirus symptoms they **must** self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

NHS Test and Trace:

We are expecting all members of the school community to be ready and willing to fully engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. This includes:

- booking a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.
- providing details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- self-isolating if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

The general guidance is that anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Hygiene measures:

Strict hygiene controls will be in place for all pupils and staff in school. Parents and visitors will only be allowed on site with pre-booked appointments and all of the measures that we have put in place for our partial re-opening since June will be rolled out across all areas of the school for the start of the new term. Our risk assessment for re-opening to pupils is available on our school website.

Masks and PPE:

In line with the current DfE guidance we are not encouraging pupils to wear masks when they are in school. The guidance states that masks are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

It is important to note however that face coverings are required at all times on public transport for children over the age of 11 and so we will be expecting all pupils to wear a face mask on their journeys to and from school.

Once at school the facemask will need to be removed and stored securely in a plastic bag or disposed of if it is a temporary face covering. Covered bins will be provided for this.

Further information:

In summary, we are really looking forward to fully re-opening in the autumn term and we will be following the [guidance issued by the Department for Education](#) and ensuring that all the systems of control are in place. This should provide real reassurance to all members of the school community.

For further information please visit our school website or, if you have not done so already, please sign up to our Twitter and Facebook accounts for all the latest information and updates.

I will be writing to you again just before the start of the new term to provide any additional information so that you and your child can fully prepare for the start of the new term.

We have arranged Parent Information Evenings during the first few weeks in September for all year groups and this will be a great opportunity for you to come into school and ask any questions and meet with school leaders.

For those of you who have children in Year 11 or 13, we will be sending out further details in a separate letter about results days in August. For A Level results this will be Thursday 13th August and for GCSE results it is Thursday 20th August. As well as receiving their results (electronically or in the post) we will also be offering a full range of support and guidance for anyone who is unsure about their next steps.

And finally...

As this is the final letter of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to a number of members of staff who are leaving us to take up new challenges and opportunities. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them all for their dedicated service and for the difference that they have made to our school community over their time working with us.

I would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement that you have given to us here at school this year. It has been a truly unprecedented year and one that I could never have imagined. I am very confident that we will bounce back from this very quickly and continue to support one another so that, in line with our school vision, we can enable all to achieve their God-given potential within a unified, respectful and harmonious community. I wish you a safe, peaceful and enjoyable summer.

James Ludlow