

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all our families have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. The staff at Kineton and I are really looking forward to welcoming all our students back to school and particularly our new Year 7 and Year 12 intakes. Both year groups will be the first to return fully on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September and will have further induction on that day. We are all hoping that we can anticipate a much more stable year in school with regards to the pandemic but there is still operational guidance in place that we must follow.

**Details of the testing and staggered return can be found on the website;** letters have gone to all parents regarding the testing process and times to arrive on site for the test. There will be parking available on the playground whilst parents wait for children to be tested.

This letter gives further guidance on the measures and plans in place for a safe return to school and information on how we have adopted the latest government operation guidance for schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

This next phase of the road-map involves us being more involved in managing the virus rather than the stringent measures that were applied this time last year. However, as indicated below, there are some systems that will remain in place as we enter the new academic year.

## 1. Attendance

It is mandatory for all school age children to attend school. I fully expect all students to attend school from their designated start date unless:

- They have tested positive and are self-isolating or are awaiting results of a PCR test. COVID related absence will not affect the student's absence record.
- They have been advised by their consultant or clinician that they should not attend due to being critically extremely vulnerable. CEV students should still attend school unless otherwise advised.
- They have another unrelated illness.

## 2. Measures to minimise transmission

There are a series of control measures that will be in place from 1<sup>st</sup> September:

- Ensuring continued good hygiene- we will encourage frequent hand washing and sanitisation as well as the 'catch-it/bin-it/kill-it' approach to respiratory hygiene
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated- this will mean open windows and doors in classrooms
- Following public health advice on testing, self- isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

In addition, we will:

- Maintain horizontal year groups to limit the numbers of contacts
- Retain a staggered lunch and break-time with two sittings at each point and year-based queuing systems
- Continue to ask students to wait outside and be met by form tutors before school
- Retain voluntary face coverings in lessons and recommend their use in busy communal areas
- Continue with twice weekly home testing for students and staff

We will review these measures in light of any positive cases or outbreaks and adjust as necessary.

### **3. Reports of positive tests/ symptoms**

Staff and students with positive LFD test results, should self-isolate and take a PCR test as soon as possible (within 2 days of the LFD test). If the PCR is negative, they can return to school as normal.

Students/ parents and staff should follow public health advice if they test positive. The school must be informed but will not trace or isolate close contacts. This will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace.

From the start of term, Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they 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](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

### **4. In the event of an outbreak**

If we have several confirmed cases in the school community within a 14-day period, we will take advice from the DFE and Warwickshire public health. The school's Outbreak Plan will be enforced which has a stepped approach depending on the circumstance and advice given. School closure or sending students home will be a last resort.

### **5. Vaccine roll-out for 12-15 year olds**

The Government is finalising its plan for a systematic programme of vaccinations for 12-15 year olds. Schools have been informed via Warwickshire local authority on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August that this is likely and that schools will be the vaccination sites. I am awaiting further announcements and will contact all relevant parents as soon as there is further news.

### **6. School Transport**

Students are strongly advised by the Local Authority and Warwickshire school transport to continue wearing face coverings on the buses at all times. We will be advocating this to our students; please ensure that if your child travels by bus that they have a face covering for travel.

I hope that offers further guidance and reassurance to everyone regarding safety at the start of term; the updated risk assessment and outbreak plan will be on the school website as soon as fully completed.

Yours sincerely,



Ms H Bridge  
Headteacher