

2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Return of all students to face-to-face education at Kingsmead School

I write to outline arrangements for the return of our students, and to share our approach to testing and the reduction of risk from the coronavirus. Firstly, though, I would like to thank parents/carers for supporting their children throughout this period of remote learning. Going forward, we will need your continued support to ensure students settle back into school routines as quickly as possible.

Within the week beginning 8 March 2021, **all** students should return to full time, face-to-face education at Kingsmead School. Upon their return, they will be offered on-site asymptomatic testing subject to parental consent, to help us break chains of transmission and keep our students and staff safe.

Conducting the necessary quantity of tests, more than 3,000 over a period of 2 weeks, will prove immensely challenging. Our proposed plans, as detailed below, may need to change at short notice should we be unable to meet the government's testing expectations for any reason.

Return to site and first asymptomatic test dates

Students should return to site on the dates below, reporting to their tutor base from 8.40 am. They will spend their first full day on site within their tutor group, and from the second day onwards will follow their usual timetable.

Year Group	Return to site date and date of first test
Year 11	Monday 8 March 2021
Year 10	Tuesday 9 March 2021
Year 7	Wednesday 10 March 2021
Year 8	Thursday 11 March 2021
Year 9	Friday 12 March 2021

Provision for students who currently attend site will continue across the week beginning 8 March 2021. They will resume education with their Year Group on the given date above. **Remote education** will continue across this week for students at home, with lessons set via Firefly tasks.

CARE

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

 contact@kingsmead-school.com

 01984 623483

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Live lessons will not continue given the complexity of managing testing arrangements, on site education for the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils and the teaching of Year Groups who are also on site. However, **afternoon registration** for Year Groups at home will be **live** and via Microsoft Teams. There may be *a single* occasion during the week when live tutor times are not possible, as your child's tutor will be supporting the registration of critical worker-vulnerable students on site.

Testing arrangements

Testing is voluntary and your child will not be tested unless you (or another parent/carer) have given consent. We strongly encourage you and your child to take part. Your child will not be stopped from returning to Kingsmead if you do not give consent.

All students will take an on-site test 3 times at school with subsequent testing taking place at home. The home test kit will be provided by Kingsmead School, and students will be asked to report results to NHS Test & Trace. More details on home testing will be provided in due course.

Any student testing positive at school must be collected and will be required to self-isolate in line with the government's 'stay at home' guidance. A negative test result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other measures intended to reduce transmission. Students who miss a test will be required to test on arrival to site the following day.

During the most recent period of 'National Lockdown' we have conducted over 900 Lateral Flow tests at Kingsmead School. However, despite this experience, the testing schedule and frequency determined by the government will prove **extremely** challenging for us to meet. At times, we need to test over 30 students within a 20-minute window, requiring a team of over 20 trained staff. Over 3,000 tests need to be conducted over a two-week period. **We may need, at late notice, to adjust the return to site schedule if we are unable to test a sufficient quantity of students on any given day.**

Students from Wiveliscombe will be tested last on each day. Their testing may run to the end of the school day and beyond if necessary. If we anticipate a significantly late end to the school day for these students, we will contact relevant parents/carers.

Summary of arrangements to limit coronavirus risk at Kingsmead School

We recognise that many parents/carers and students will be anxious about the return to education on site. Please be assured that we have taken all practical measures to reduce coronavirus risk. Our key actions include the following:

- Reminding students that **face coverings** should be worn by everyone (unless exempt) **in classrooms**, when moving between classrooms and at any point when social distancing is difficult to maintain. We are advised that visors are not an appropriate alternative to face coverings.
- Supporting students to remain in their specified separate **bubbles**, and to maintain distance between individuals, wherever permitted by the layout of our existing facilities.
- Reminding students to **clean their hands** thoroughly and more often than usual, including when they arrive, during/after breaks, before and after eating – providing hand sanitiser in every classroom.
- An enhanced system of **cleaning** including the 'bubbling' of essential equipment.
- An increased natural **ventilation flow** through opening of windows and doors in classrooms.

I would be grateful if you would reinforce the importance of the first three bullet points above with your child before their return to site.

Attendance, self-isolation and shielding

School attendance will be mandatory upon the return of your child's Year Group to full time education at Kingsmead School, *unless* your child is self-isolating or clinically extremely vulnerable.

A small number of students will be unable to attend in line with public health advice to **self-isolate**. You should keep your child at home if they:

- have coronavirus symptoms or live in a household with someone who has symptoms.
- have tested positive themselves, even if they do not have symptoms.
- live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms.
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus.

If your child is confirmed as **clinically extremely vulnerable**, they are advised not to attend school or college until further notice. In this instance, please send a copy of your shielding letter by email to contact@kingsmead-school.com. We will provide your child with remote education via Firefly 'Covid School' or Firefly tasks set by subject teachers.

School transport

School transport will be provided to and from Kingsmead as per arrangements prior to the National Lockdown. School staff will support the boarding of afternoon buses, to help ensure the following measures to reduce the risk of transmission:

- Students will be asked to use a regular seat.
- Year Groups will be bubbled and where possible rows of empty seats will keep bubbles separate.
- Boarding should be orderly.
- Students should wear their mask whilst on school transport unless exempt.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

We fully understand that many students will have found lockdown a challenge and will have some anxieties about returning to school. We will all do as much as we can to be mindful of this and give extra support to students in the initial few weeks of the 'return to normal'. However, it is important that all students are aware that there will still be very high expectations with regards their behaviour in lessons and around the school site.

Kingsmead aims to be a place where all students can feel valued and thrive. This can only happen in calm and purposeful classrooms and it is vital that all students remember they each have role to play in respecting themselves and each other – as well as all staff who are teaching and supporting them.

In many ways, this is more important than ever as we have lost out on the experience of classroom-based learning recently – therefore, purposeful and focused classrooms are even more vital on the return to school.

Space around the school site is also tight due to the new build. We would, therefore, ask that students remember to always walk when moving between lessons indoors – and keep to the left wherever possible so that we can all keep safe.

Curriculum and assessments

Teachers will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, adapting curriculum planning to ensure students cover the most important content.

Students taking GCSEs will receive grades based on teacher assessment in 2021. More information will be provided directly to Year 11 parents/carers in due course.

School uniform

Your child should return to Kingsmead School in [full school uniform](#), in accordance with the requirements on the school website. Where parents/carers have been unable to obtain specific pieces of uniform, they should contact their child's tutor via email to contact@kingsmead-school.com.

Wellbeing

We recognise that some students may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. Our pastoral support team will be available to support these students.

Finally...

I know **all staff** look forward to the return of students to education on site at Kingsmead School, as the best place for their academic, personal and social development. Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you have any concerns about your child's return to school, please get in touch with us via contact@kingsmead-school.com

I do hope that this is the final time we have to return students from a period of National Lockdown.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the 'i' in Williams.

Mark Williams
Head Teacher