

1 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Latest COVID-19 information and Positive Behaviour for Learning

I am writing to update you regarding the return of students to Kingsmead. Firstly, it is fantastic to have students back on site where they belong! The latest newsletter, coming out soon, will give further details of the return to face-to-face education.

A central part of the return to site has been the conducting of lateral flow tests – 2,432 such tests were undertaken to enable students to return safely to school. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have contributed to this success, either by working in the testing centre, supporting students, or by facilitating the schedule of students leaving lessons for testing during the day.

Upon their return to site, students were expected to wear masks in lessons and our inside spaces. The guidance from the Department of Education is that students and staff **should continue to wear face masks** into the summer term. I am really pleased with how students have conducted themselves with regards to this matter.

Home Testing arrangements

Government guidance has stated that all staff and students should continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays and report the results from their lateral flow device (LFD) test [online](#) and to the school via Firefly. In addition, staff and students at secondary schools must take a Covid test before returning for the summer term. This test must be conducted either the night before, or morning of, the first day back in order to identify and isolate any potential cases.

Reporting a confirmed Coronavirus case

All schools are required to have procedures in place to deal with any confirmed positive Coronavirus cases over the Easter period. Essentially, you must report positive cases of Coronavirus to school during the Easter holidays, up to and including 7 April, as a case could have implications for any close contacts. Please do this by emailing contact@kingsmead-school.com and title your message CONFIRMED CORONAVIRUS CASE.

Where students need to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case during the holidays specifically, we do not need to be informed of this until the first day of the Summer term. It is important for staff and students to continue home testing every 3-4 days during the Easter holidays to manage the spread of Coronavirus.

CARE


ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

 contact@kingsmead-school.com

 01984 623483

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A reminder of the summary of arrangements to limit Coronavirus risk at Kingsmead School

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 on Monday 19 April.

Attendance, self-isolation and shielding

School attendance is mandatory *unless* your child is self-isolating. 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 should return to school after Easter unless told otherwise by a medical professional. In this instance, please send a copy of your letter from a medical professional 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.

BYOD guidance

On Wednesday 24 March there was an incident in school, which involved a number of students. Some students recorded part(s) of the incident and some videos were shared online. After a full investigation, the students involved in this incident received consequences for their actions.

It is very clear in our Acceptable Use Policy that students are not allowed to use their mobile devices to take or distribute images of other people. I am particularly concerned that a few students felt that this was OK – It most certainly is not. If students do this in future, appropriate consequences will be applied.

For further details see: [Student and Parent Acceptable Use](#)

Positive Behaviour for Learning

In the Christmas newsletter I referred to how we intend to proceed with improving positive behaviour for learning. The vast majority of students at Kingsmead are fantastic and work very well with their teachers. However, there is a small minority who have found it difficult to get back into learning mode since their return to school from the latest lockdown. This is an area that the school is determined to improve and will require support from everyone within our ‘Triangle of Partnership’.

It is important that all students are aware that we have very high expectations in relation to positive 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 a role to play in respecting themselves and each other – as well as all staff who are teaching and supporting them.

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

Our strategy to further improve positive behaviour for learning is a long term one and will include consultations with the whole school community and ongoing training for all staff. We have already made some immediate changes to our policy to support staff when students are not behaving positively.

We anticipate that a new 'Behaviour/Relationships Policy' will be in place for September 2021, which will be fully realised as a 'Relationships Policy' by September 2022.

School uniform

Your child should attend Kingsmead School in [full school uniform](#), in accordance with the requirements on the school website. Uniform checks will be taking place from Monday 19 April. 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. The school will be undertaking a review of school uniform in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Wellbeing

We are immensely proud of all the support given to students over the past year – and remind you that if your child feels anxious or concerned about any issue, a fantastic student support system is in place to provide appropriate advice and guidance. Students can speak to their tutor or arrange an appointment with Mrs Beatty or Mrs Allen in Student Welfare.

And finally

I would like to say a thank you to parents/carers who have been supporting the school with the reinforcement of COVID-19 guidelines and expectations with your children. We need to continue to work together to enable students to get the best opportunities available. The new build is beginning to gather pace and exciting times lay ahead as we hopefully return to normality in the coming months.

I wish you a relaxing Easter holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mark Williams
Head Teacher