



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome students back in to school for the new academic year. Thank you for your understanding while we have implemented induction programmes for Year 7 & 12, target-setting day and two opportunities for each student to take lateral flow tests.

We have all welcomed the return of single timetable for the school day and the return of extra-curricular activities. Students should be in registration for an 8.50am start and the school day finishes at 3.15pm.

We have introduced staggered queues at lunchtime for different year groups in response to student feedback. This means that Years 7-10 either queue from 12.30 or 12.45 via a separate entrance to the dining room, even on the first day we were able to move everyone through and it will only speed up as everyone gets used to the new system. Combined with designated social spaces for each year group we hope to retain some of the benefits we saw last year without the complications of staggered lunchtimes.

Work completed over the summer includes complete refurbishment of Kings Hill House (Learning Support), fabulous wall vinyls for the new History block, an Art Gallery space in the new link corridor, three science laboratory refurbishments, new drainage for the Johnson buildings, new tarmac areas and new IT infrastructure. Combined with other repairs and redecoration around the school site this has been a really busy summer for all the staff who work across the school holidays. We hope to offer a number of opportunities for parents to visit the school for events during the year.

Although we have returned to a more normal school year, we continue to emphasise the importance of good ventilation and good hand hygiene. Hand sanitiser remains available around the school and we encourage students to take positive steps to keep themselves healthy.

Covid-19

As the country has now entered Step 4 of the roadmap, there will be some differences in school. The DfE set out their aims to “reduce the disruption to children and young people’s education. Our priority is for you to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils.”

Schools will no longer be carrying out contact tracing, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Pupils under 18 Years and 6 months old, who are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 do **not** need to self-isolate. They should instead get a PCR test, and should only self-isolate if they test positive. Families should consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine and take this into account when booking any holidays so that students avoid missing school.

We continue to review our risk assessment, emphasise the importance of good hand hygiene, ensure ventilation by having windows open and follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases. We work closely with our Local Outbreak Team and will follow their advice in the event of a local outbreak. We encourage students to continue to test themselves twice a week (Monday and Thursday morning if possible) and to upload the text result to the NHS website. Please also contact the absence line in the event that the test is **positive**. Students will have the opportunity to collect Tests from school via their tutor or student reception. Instructions for use are contained within the testing kit. If you don’t wish your child to receive home test kits they can tell their tutor that they don’t need them if offered. If you would like us to pass a message to their tutor directly you can email office@keslichfield.org.uk.

Pupils who have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, should self-isolate and get a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. **It is important that they do not attend school.** If a

child has any Covid-19 symptoms a PCR tests should be taken NOT a Lateral Flow Test. If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well, they can stop self-isolating and return to school. If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people are no longer advised to shield. All clinically extremely vulnerable pupils should attend their education setting unless they are one of the very small number of children and young people under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend. Please email a copy of any letter advising a pupil self-isolate for this reason to attendance@keslichfield.org.uk

We would like to reassure you that whatever the discussion in the media, if the government does approve Covid vaccinations for 12-15 year olds then as with all the vaccination programmes, no child would receive a vaccination on the school premises without the consent of their parents. The NHS is responsible for vaccinations programmes that are administered in school by the immunisation team. We ensure that informed consent is given by parents before a child takes part. We have been given no information as a school about any intention to offer Covid vaccines in school, if we do receive notification then we will share this with you.

A reminder of Key contacts

Please communicate absences via the absence text line before 9am – 07860 034183. If your child is having a PCR Test please email a copy of the test results to attendance@keslichfield.org.uk and confirm the expected return date to school.

Kind regards



Ms Rutherford
Headteacher



Mrs Forster
Deputy Heateacher

A message from Mr Whitehurst for Year 7

A big welcome to King Edwards to our new Y7. They have now been with us for just over a week and their long-awaited arrival has certainly been worth the wait.

Without any exceptions they conducted themselves brilliantly in the testing phases, have made an immensely positive impression on their form tutors and teaching staff alike and we have heard nothing but praise for Y7 from the all-important catering staff!

It's been great to see them finding their way around school and importantly they seem to have taken the sensible advice to ask lots of questions of staff if they are not sure about things. All these things have certainly given us real optimism on both an individual and year group level moving forward.

Of course, inevitably there will be bumps along the road for some and changes to come for all in the year group as time progresses, but so long as they remember that we are here to support them and encourage them to be the best they can be then our journey together has every chance to succeed.

Well done 7, onwards and upwards!

Mr Whitehurst - Achievement Leader