



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE

Tel: 01543 255714 | Web: [www.keslichfield.org.uk](http://www.keslichfield.org.uk)

Email: [office@keslichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@keslichfield.org.uk)

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Returning to school – March 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school. The following information and reminders will hopefully answer some of your questions as we return.

#### Lateral Flow Testing

All students have the opportunity to take three lateral flow tests at school. The first of these will be before students return to school for lessons and the details of these have already been shared with parents via email. If students are not participating in the testing, they should return to school in line with our phased return arrangements. After the three initial tests in school students will be offered tests that they can take twice a week at home. We will share details of this process at a later date.

#### Phased return

To support with the testing process we have arranged for students to return to school. The table below shows the return dates for each year group.

Year group	School return date
7	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
8	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
9	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
10	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
11	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
12	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
13	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March

On their return all students will have an extended registration to provide time to go through arrangements with students.

#### Face coverings around school

You may have seen recent media coverage about the change in guidance regarding face coverings. Our approach to the use of face coverings in school is based upon this guidance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965446/Face\\_coverings\\_in\\_education\\_-\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965446/Face_coverings_in_education_-_March_2021.pdf) The measures recommended by Public Health England are further strengthening the system of controls to prevent the spread of coronavirus. This is a temporary measure which will be reviewed at Easter. The guidance recommends that face coverings are worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity. Face visors or shields should not be worn as an alternative to face coverings but can be worn in addition to a face covering.

It is important that face coverings are worn correctly, this includes cleaning hands before and after touching – including to remove or put face coverings on and the safe storage of face coverings in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Please provide students with a face covering, a spare in case one is lost and a plastic bag to store it in when it is not being worn.

There will be a small contingency supply in school if students do not have a face covering with them. These are being provided by the Department for Health & Social Care and there will no longer be a charge if students need a face covering.

Some students may choose not to wear a face covering at all times or may be exempt. Students may feel more comfortable showing something which says that they do not have to wear a face covering. If your child will not be wearing a face covering and would like a card, badge or lanyard to show this, please could you contact us via the [office@keslichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@keslichfield.org.uk) email address, stating the students name, year group and tutor group so that we can arrange for them to have something to show if they are asked about wearing a face covering.

### **Travel to and from school, including public transport**

Students should follow the safer travel guidance and wear a face covering on public transport and substantially closed areas of transport hubs. If students are able to walk or cycle to school this will help to prevent the spread of the virus. Where students are being dropped at school by car, please do not come on to the school site to drop students off. Please find a safe place to drop students away from the school grounds, where they can then walk for 5 – 10 minutes before arriving on site. There are currently road works and temporary traffic lights near to the cross roads for Upper St John Street, Shortbutts Lane, Tamworth Road and London Road. Please be aware that these are likely to cause significant delays. It would be advisable to drop students before these roadworks and to allow extra time when travelling to school for testing and lessons.

### **Responding to symptoms**

If students or any member of their household has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (Covid 19) – a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a lost or change in the sense of taste and smell – they will need to book a test. All members of the household will need to self-isolate and students should not attend school if they have any symptoms. Students will also need to self-isolate and not attend school if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (Covid 19), if they have travelled from certain countries or they have been advised to by NHS test and trace or the Public Health England local health protection team.

### **Around the school site**

The measures which have been in place since the return to school in the Autumn will still be in place. There are hand sanitiser stations around the school, on entry to the dining areas and on entry to classrooms. The whole school one way system will remain in place. The new buildings on the Bader site and the removal of the mobiles on the Johnson end of the site mean that there are some adjustments to the one-way system. These will be sign-posted and a short video explaining the changes shared with students as part of their induction.

### **Other safety measures**

Students will need to bring all their equipment for lessons and it would be a good idea for students to bring their own tissues and hand sanitiser as well. The staggered break and lunch times will remain in place to limit the number of people that students can potentially have contact with. Please leave the school site straight away at the end of the school day. The full range of measures can be seen in our school risk assessment [Risk assessment – Covid 19 King EDward VI School, Lichfield \(keslichfield.org.uk\)](#)

## School uniform

Full school uniform will continue to be normal dress when students return to lessons, however the changes made in the autumn term will remain in place. Students are able to wear the school blazer or a school jumper (black, knitted, v neck jumper – with or without the school logo) and they should wear their PE kit on days that PE is a timetabled lesson. If there are any concerns about uniform please write a note for the student's form teacher explaining any problems. The weather is still changeable and we are continuing to ventilate all classrooms, it would therefore be important that students are prepared for cold weather.

We would like to thank all our students and families for their hard work, commitment, and support since Christmas. Our community has responded again with flexibility and resourcefulness to the changes and we are sure that the same resilience will be seen as we return to school. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or need to respond to new government guidance.

Best wishes,



Catharine Forster,  
Deputy Headteacher