



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE

Tel: 01543 255714 | Web: www.keslichfield.org.uk

Email: office@keslichfield.org.uk

Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

4 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We welcome students to the start of our new term – albeit remotely and wish all of our families a Happy New Year.

We apologise in advance for the length of this letter, there are a number of important things we need to communicate to you and ask that you read it carefully.

Tier 4 COVID-19 restrictions

You will be aware Staffordshire have been placed into Tier 4 COVID. We are in the process of carrying out a review of our risk assessment in light of the increased Tier. Please see the following message from the DFE which is particularly important whilst students are at home learning remotely:

“Throughout all children and young people should continue to comply with the rules set out for the tier they are in, and parents are asked to help ensure their children are following these rules. That particularly includes those related to mixing with other households when they are not at school and when they are travelling to and from educational settings.”

School places for children of critical workers and vulnerable children

If you require a school place over the next two weeks you should have completed the form below. This will need to be completed **at least 24 hours before** the place is needed.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SvYnzX1YzUyhznVrI8BXTozPwJ9RZpMqFmb4B0CQZhUMktNOTNLNOVZVIJBRks0TzBIWfYOMzJHNy4u>

If you need to make any amendments to a place that has previously been requested please email Jbrownridge@keslichfield.org.uk. It is important that we know which students we are expecting in each day.

If your child is unwell or unable to attend on a day that a place has been booked please contact our absence line in the usual way: 07860 034183

Separate communication to parents and carers who have requested school places will be sent later today.

Transport to school

Staffordshire County Council have confirmed that transportation will continue to be provided over the next fortnight.

Testing of staff and students

You will have read about the government’s intention to test students as they return to school. In order to do this we will need parents/guardians in Years 7-11 to complete a consent form for **each** child. This can be done after reading the information set out below and the government guidance around lateral flow testing and privacy notice which is a separate attachment.

We would appreciate an early response so that we can make an informed decision about testing capacity. The link to the consent form is:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SvYnzX1YzUyhznVri8BXTozPwJ9RZpMqFmb4B0CQZhUM0JURjBaWU83QU9UWFLNVI2WENPUEozRi4u>

As a school we are keen to remain open to all our students as far as possible. This will always be our priority and we follow all advice from Public Health carefully. However as the school is now being asked to engage in Covid 19 testing for students and staff, it is important that you have an insight in to the potential implications for the school community.

All lateral flow testing to be carried out in school would be self-administered. This is done via a swab to the back of the throat and the nose. At no point would a member of staff carry this out for a child. Therefore, even where consent is given by a parent, the child must be willing and able to carry out the swabbing under adult supervision.

Lateral flow testing is estimated to have an accuracy rate of approximately 60% in current testing settings. Training will be provided to those adults who supervise testing but they will not be medically trained professionals. Testing can generate false positives and false negatives or inconclusive results. For any child with a positive lateral flow test then a PCR test at a test centre is required to confirm whether someone has tested positive for Covid 19.

In all cases, where someone has any of the main symptoms of Covid 19 they should book a test. Lateral flow tests in school are only for those without symptoms.

We are not yet in a position to confirm that we can test all of our students and staff as suggested by the Department for Education. Running the testing is a hugely complex process and we have a huge undertaking to establish whether school staff are willing to run all aspects of the tests. The huge volume of PPE which has been delivered to school today underlines the seriousness of the implementation of testing. The asymptomatic testing would require at least 9 testing bays operating 6 hours a day to cover the whole school population. This requires approximately 20 adults to run and administer the testing in addition to the current operation of the school. It will be the case that we require additional staff and/or volunteers. Please let us know if you would like to find out more about supporting us as a volunteer by emailing office@keslichfield.org.uk

A negative test result does not provide any security beyond the immediate knowledge of the outcome. All students and staff need to follow all Tier 4 guidance, maintain social distancing wherever possible, wear masks in shared spaces and follow hand washing routines.

We are asking for an initial response by 10am on Tuesday 5th January for consent regarding testing.

We will then review our testing capacity and make contact with parents where we are able to offer their child a test. We will be prioritising students in Year 11 and 13 who are due to return to face to face learning next week. For younger students who are currently learning from home, the combination of Tier 4 restrictions and remote learning over the coming two weeks should reduce the likelihood of returning to school with the virus.

Beyond initial testing there is a government proposal to use lateral flow testing to reduce the amount of time that students and staff are out of school following a confirmed case. This would mean that the school completes contact tracing but that where students or staff agree to daily tests, they can continue to attend school rather than self-isolate. We have not yet made any decisions on whether to operate this and will communicate separately with you on this matter.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest and that you will share our concerns about a safe return for all students to school. We will be carrying out adjustments to our risk assessment based on the new more transmissible strain of Covid 19 and taking the time to carry out an induction for all students on their return to school.

Remote Learning Provision

We have re-attached the Student Access Office 365 and Student Teams guides that we have previously sent home. These have also been uploaded to Show My Homework for students to access directly.

Our approach to remote learning over the next two weeks will be as follows:

Remote lessons will include a mixture of teacher input and independent learning. As usual, specific instructions will be provided for each lesson on Show My Homework as per students' individual timetables.

The current plan is that from Monday 11th January, we will be welcoming the Year 11 and 13 students back into school for face-to-face lessons. All other year groups will be undertaking remote learning.

From Monday 18th January, we will be expecting all students to be in school full time.

If there are any changes to this we will of course communicate this to you as soon as we have any updates.

Free School Meals

For students in receipt of free school meals who are not attending school under the vulnerable student or Critical worker provision, our finance team are in the process of sending out e-vouchers. For any queries please contact finance@keslichfield.org.uk

Access to technology

We are working with families who have informed us that students don't have access to any technology to access the remote learning provision. If you feel that this applies to your child please contact Lisa Mason via lmason@keslichfield.org.uk

If your son or daughter is struggling to access our school network or need to change their password, please contact ICTsupport@keslichfield.org.uk

We thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Rutherford, Mrs Forster, Mrs Hurn