

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the start of term approaches, we are writing to confirm the arrangements for the full reopening of King Edward VI School in September, to give you time to think about the practicalities of returning to school. Our approach to reopening the school is based on guidance from the Department for Education, further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Attendance

All students are expected to return to school, unless they are unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). Shielding advice for all adults and children has been paused on 1 August. This means, that students on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. It may be that you have some concerns about returning to school and have discussed this with a health professional, if you have any concerns linked to a specific health condition please contact the school via office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Health advice

It is essential that all members of the school community continue to follow the government guidance regarding Coronavirus (Covid 19).

- The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of a new continuous cough or a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
- If students develop these symptoms, however mild, or if they have received a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test result, then they should immediately self-isolate, staying at home for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. If a member of the household develops symptoms all other members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.
- If students have any symptoms of COVID-19, please inform the school straight away and arrange a test by visiting [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk), or contact 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.
- Do not send students to school who are showing any symptoms of the virus.

What if a student becomes ill at school?

If any student becomes ill they will be asked to wait outside of the classroom, where they will be collected and taken to an area where they can be appropriately supervised while they wait to be collected. The first aid team in school have access to PPE for supervising and supporting students. They will be asked to complete a test before returning to school. If a positive test is returned for any member of the school community, we will contact the local health protection team and follow their guidance. Please be aware that we will need to be more cautious in decision making. We understand that you will also be more cautious in making decisions about whether your child is well enough to come to school.

Hygiene measures and keeping the school clean

Each classroom will have a kit including cleaning products. Surfaces are cleaned regularly and all equipment will be cleaned in between use. We have a cleaner on site each day to clean areas throughout the day as well as cleaners in the morning and after school. Students are expected to clean their hands multiple times throughout the day using hand sanitiser stations around the site and sinks in practical classrooms or the student toilets. We have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas about good handwashing. Students may choose to bring their own hand sanitiser in to school and will be reminded about using this frequently, including on arrival in to school, between lessons and before eating and drinking.

Social distancing

Students will be asked to remain in year group 'bubbles' and should not interact with students from other year groups. Particularly in Key Stage 3, many lessons will take place in tutor groups further minimising the contact between students. At break and lunchtimes students will be required to stay in a specific area of the school to prevent contact with other year groups. Staff will continue to maintain 1metre+ social distancing from students and other staff. We will not be able to invite visitors into school as we have done previously, however we will be available to speak to parents on the phone or via online meetings.

Dates

Staff will be returning to school from 1 September for two training days and then year groups will be starting as follows:

- Year 7 induction from Thursday 3rd September
- Year 12 induction from Friday 4th September from 10:15-14:05 (students new to the school from 9:15)
- Year 8 induction from 8.55 to 11.40 on Monday 7th September then full timetable from Tuesday 8th
- Year 9 induction from 8.55 to 11.35 on Monday 7th September then full timetable from Tuesday 8th
- Year 10 induction from 8.55 to 11.30 on Monday 7th September then full timetable from Tuesday 8th
- Year 11 induction from 8:55 to 11.00 on Monday 7th September then full timetable from Tuesday 8th
- Year 13 induction from 10.30 to 12.30 on Monday 7th September then full timetable from Tuesday 8th

The induction for all year groups will focus on supporting students in their return to school. It is important that they understand the routines and measures put in place with some time to absorb this information before they begin their full timetables. Arrangements for induction including rooming will also be provided next week along with a check list of key points to remember.

Arriving at and leaving school

Students should not arrive on the school site before 8.30am. On arrival students should go straight to their form room and wait in the classroom. Students should not wait on corridors at any time. The end of the school day has been staggered; this will mean that year 9, 10 and 11 will finish at 3.30pm and year 7, 8 and the sixth form will finish at 3.35pm. Students should leave the school site immediately. They should not wait on corridors or other parts of the school site.

The school transport will continue to run at the usual times; students should go to the bus turning circle where they will be asked to wait for their bus in the order that they board the bus. This will be based upon the school bus route with students living furthest from the school boarding the bus first. Students will be asked to use the same seat on the bus for each journey.

Students using public transport and school transport will be required to wear a face mask. Students should remove the face covering, using the straps, avoiding touching the cover itself and place it in a clean plastic bag. This should be stored in their school bag on arrival at school. Further information about the wearing of face masks can be seen in this video from the World Health Organisation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=9Tv2BVN_WTk&feature=emb_logo

All students should clean their hands on arrival at school using the hand sanitiser stations around the school site or their own hand sanitiser.

The school day

The timings of the school day have been altered to support social distancing of year groups across the school. Students will continue to have 5 hours teaching time each day and transition time has been built into the school day to allow students time to cross the site. Please note the following timings for break and lunch for different year groups. Some students may prefer to eat their lunch or a larger snack earlier in the day.

Break

Year 7, 8 and the sixth form: 10.15am-10.40am

Year 9, 10 and 11: 11.25-11.50am

Lunch

Year 7, 8 and the sixth form: 12.45-1.30pm

Year 9, 10 and 11: 1.55-2.30pm

We now have 3 separate food points in school. In Bader, Q Block and the new food point in Johnson near the Geography classrooms. Year groups will have an allocated food point for break and lunchtimes, this will rotate every week. All groups will keep to their own area at these times, including use of toilets in that area.

Uniform

We expect that full school uniform will be normal dress from September. However, there are two temporary revisions to our approach. We have made these temporary changes to support both students and staff.

As of September, students must wear the school blazer OR a school jumper (black, knitted, V-neck jumper - with or without school logo). Students may wear both the blazer and the jumper should they choose to do so. Full details of our uniform requirements can be found on the website here http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page_id=385 . This includes information about our official uniform suppliers and adjustments they have made to ensure the safe provision of uniform including online purchases.

Secondly students will be required to wear their PE kit to school on the days that PE is a timetabled lesson. We have decided upon the following:

- Students can wear their school trousers/skirt/plain navy tracksuit bottoms over the top of their PE kit throughout the day (there will be an opportunity for a quick change in organised smaller groups at the start and end of their PE lesson).
- Students can wear their PE hoody (school branded or plain navy) and/or rain jacket (school branded or plain navy) over the top of their PE top throughout the day.
- Students ensure they have additional kit items/footwear for the practical activity they will be doing in their PE lesson (e.g. they bring boots if required or shin pads etc).
- If a student chooses to wear their school shoes during the day, they will need to bring a separate pair of trainers for PE lessons.

Equipment for school

It will be essential for students to have their own equipment for school as this cannot be loaned or shared. In addition, students will need their usual books, folders or any other equipment or resources for specialist lessons. All students will need: • Pens • Ruler • Rubber • Pencils • Sharpener • Scientific calculator • Glue Stick • Student Planner • Note Book • Ear phones for Music & MFL

We appreciate that there is a lot of information to process here and that these will be new routines for all of us. We will write again before the start of term with a check list of key information and to let students know which room to go to for their induction day. Further information regarding timetables will be shared with students and the induction slides for students and the school risk assessment will be shared on the school website.

We'd like to thank all members of our school community for their support as we return.

Kind regards, Catharine Forster, Deputy Headteacher