

17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for our plans for September. We know that children learn best when they are in school with their specialist teachers, and we will balance this with careful measures taken to reduce any risk of infection from the Covid-19 virus. This letter sets out our plans in the broadest sense, and there are more details in the FAQs attached. All of these plans are subject to changes in government guidelines.

Throughout all of this we have thoroughly appreciated the support you have offered the school and staff. We have been delighted to see so many parents and student faces through our virtual parents session 1 to 1's and we hope that these have provided some support and an opportunity to talk through your experiences of lockdown. I am acutely aware that each student will have approached this situation differently and we will support them all to return to school in a sensitive and constructive way. You too will have been in a difficult position over the long months since we closed the school in March, with many demands and concerns over the future. Thank you for your ongoing support.

First few days back

We have two INSET days on 1st and 2nd September, meaning the first official day back is Thursday 3rd September. In order to give all children a safety briefing, and get them accustomed to the site, we are proposing the following arrangements:

Thursday 3rd September Years 7, 8 and 9 in school (not 10,11)
Year 7 arrive between 8.20 - 8.40am and leave at 2.55pm
Years 8 and 9 arrive between 9.45 -10am and leave at 3.05pm

Friday 4th September Years 7, 10 and 11 in school (not 8, 9), all to arrive for 8.40am.
Year 7 to leave at 2.55pm, Years 10 and 11 to leave at 3.15pm

From Monday 7th September the timetable detailed in the FAQ will come into effect.

Organisation of the school day

Our students will be organised into year group bubbles for years 9, 10 and 11, tutor classes for Year 7, and two bubbles in Year 8. More details are in the FAQ section attached. Break and lunch time will be phased so students can have some fresh air and something to eat. And we have some limited staggering to the start and end of the day but not so significant to impact on parents normal working patterns.

Health and safety

Students will be expected to observe social distancing at all times when it is possible and we will enable this in classrooms and corridors wherever feasible. Their approach to this will be crucial and I am confident that they will be keen to engage with school and get back to normal. We will maintain the intensive cleaning and hygiene protocols that we have in place and extend these to the whole site.

Infection

If any member of the school community, child or adult, has symptoms of the virus **they must not attend school** until tested and then follow national guidelines if this is positive. This is incredibly important as if someone comes into school with symptoms it could mean that students and staff who are in their year group/bubble will be required to self-isolate for 2 weeks.

Learning and curriculum

We will keep the curriculum broad and balanced and we will continue to enable our students to experience the rich and stimulating learning that they enjoy here. We will ensure that, during the Autumn term, teachers check how effectively students learnt during the school closure and do this carefully, followed by amended teaching where needed. Students will still be able to cover their whole timetable with some small adjustments in practical subjects that require sharing of equipment or might normally be based on group work.

Transport

Transport to and from Kings can be a challenge as some of the distances that students travel require use of public or school buses. We encourage all children to walk or cycle if possible, or for you to drop off and pick up a short distance from the school to reduce congestion. We are still liaising with Surrey CC about arrangements on the buses and you will be written to separately in due course.

Wellbeing and support

We will continue with all the wellbeing work that is a hallmark of the school and support every child in the best way we can. There will be some changes to how we organise this, but our ambition remains to give every child the best possible support we can manage.

Clubs and activities

Sadly we will have to delay running these initially both to reduce year groups' interactions with each other, and to enable teachers to plan for the changes in curriculum. We hope to be able to bring these back shortly.

I hope that you are relieved that your child will be able to come back to school soon – we are certainly looking forward to seeing them. We know that it has been a huge burden on parents to support home learning in the way you have and we appreciate all of your efforts. There will be much to learn from the period of closure and it may be a while before school returns to normal. We are also aware that there is the possibility of another rise in infections and national or localised lockdowns, and are planning for how this would be managed.

In the holidays students will receive their "Reconnect" booklet that will provide lots more details about how the school will run. We wish to wait for the DfE guidance update expected on 11th August before releasing this, we are also expecting an update on the 2021 exam season that impacts on students going into Year 11. Please read the FAQs that are attached, and on the website, and let the school know if there are any aspects that you would like further clarity on.

We will be unable to allow parents into the school buildings to maintain social distancing. If you need to speak to a member of staff please call the main school number and we will arrange a telephone call.

Lastly, I will be recording a voice over PowerPoint for the children to explain what will happen in September in a simple way and uploading it to Show My Homework soon. We have also engaged the services of a professional company to make a promotional video for Kings in case we cannot run open evening. – it can be found at <https://youtu.be/jXllukCpEVk> we are very pleased with the results, and also feel that the message applies to all of our current students. We are a community at Kings and are 'in this thing together', we can't wait to welcome everybody back in September.

Kind regards



Mrs J. Luhman
Headteacher