



**KING EDWARD VI**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr J Christey

21 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family have had a good summer break. Many changes have taken place during this period, and I am sure you are keen to understand how these may impact upon the school. Below, I will confirm a number of things that I mentioned in my previous letter, and also highlight any further changes.

Firstly, the school will be open from **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**, for all pupils. The government have made it clear that attendance will be statutory from this point. I hope that the following information will reassure you that the school has taken every measure to ensure that all pupils and staff will be safe and we can all get on with providing an education for your child. With any change there will be some anxiety, but we will work with yourselves and your child to make the transition back to school as smooth as possible.

### **Start of the Day – Staggered Entry**

The staggered start will happen naturally with a number of pupils arriving on school buses and others walking. I would ask that pupils enter the school grounds no earlier than **8.30 am** and go immediately to their form rooms. Please speak to your child about not meeting people outside the gates or at the shops. All pupils should travel straight to school when they leave home and then go straight to their form rooms upon arrival. **Please note that parents/carers cannot drive their vehicles on to the school grounds to drop pupils off or pick them up.**

### **Within School**

The current guidance states that pupils can be in bubbles of up to 200, which generally is a year group. Within that bubble, pupils do not have to socially distance themselves. However, between the bubbles, social distancing should be maintained wherever possible. Therefore, pupils can sit next to each other in class, and where possible pupils should be sat front facing. All pupils will continue to receive a broad curriculum. We have asked the more practical subjects to review how they will deliver their lessons so that pupils do not have to share equipment.



To ensure that the year groups are kept socially distant from each other, we have changed the timetable so that all lessons will be doubles. The reason for this is to limit the movement of pupils around the building as much as possible. This will reduce the opportunities of year groups coming in to contact with each other.

### **Break and Lunchtimes**

Break and lunchtimes have also been staggered, so that Key Stage 3 will be at a different time than Key Stage 4. All year groups will be given specific places to go within the school during break and lunchtimes. The areas where pupils can have their breaks will change if the weather is poor. Pupils will not be given the opportunity to go to other areas of the school during these times and they must follow these guidelines.

Previously, I had said that where possible, pupils would be encouraged to bring a packed lunch. After further discussions with the school caterers, it has been agreed that they will provide food that pupils can just pick-up and go. Sandwiches, pasta pots, etc., are examples of the types of food that will be available. There will be no breakfast provision at the start of school to ensure that pupils all go to their form rooms.

### **End of the School Day**

At the end of the day the finishing times will be staggered, so that the different year groups will leave at slightly different times. These will be at 5 minute intervals, in order to give sufficient time for pupils to leave in their bubbles, without it having an effect on how they are transported home.

### **School Transport**

School transport was discussed right at the end of the school academic year. If your child catches the school bus, mini bus, or public transport the guidance is the same. Pupils will be expected to sanitise their hands before they get on the bus and as they get off. Pupils who get off at the first drop off will be asked to sit near the front, with other pupils seating themselves in descending order so that they are not passing each other unnecessarily when getting off the bus. It is strongly encouraged that pupils wear a face mask when boarding the buses. Face masks are not required to be worn once a child is in school. The guidance given to schools says that pupils that have come to school wearing a face mask should remove them once they are in school. If it is a disposal face mask then an appropriate place will be shown to



pupils where they can be disposed of. If the face mask is reusable, then they should be kept in a sealed bag in the pupil's school bag.

### **Uniform**

All pupils will be expected to attend school in full school uniform. Again, this follows the guidance given to schools. Please see the pupil information pack that was sent out electronically at the end of the academic year, or go to the school's website where there is clear guidance. If you have any financial difficulties in purchasing uniform then please let the school know as soon as possible.

### **Hygiene**

Finally, to reduce the risk and ensure that everyone stays safe, all classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitiser, tissues, anti-bac wipes and bins with lids on. Good hand hygiene, as well as catch it, bin it, kill it, will ensure that everyone is safe. A member of our cleaning staff will be on site throughout the day to clean key areas.

By following government guidance, the school will be doing everything in its power to keep staff and pupils safe. Thorough risk assessments have been completed to ensure the safety of everyone on site.

This document is a working document, and if things change then the school will alter its approach if and when required.

### **If Your Child Has Symptoms of Covid19**

If any pupil has any of the symptoms below they should not attend school, and they should be tested as soon as possible.

- **Persistent cough**
- **High temperature**
- **Loss of taste and smell**

The outcome of the test and the circumstances around a positive test would then be reported to the appropriate body. The school would then receive guidance on what steps it would need to take. Any pupil that shows these symptoms whilst they are in school will be isolated and parents will be asked to collect them immediately.

**Please ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details.**



Please feel free to contact the school if you have any concerns that I have not covered in this letter. We are asking all parents and carers not to come on to the school site unless you are invited. As I'm sure you can appreciate, the fewer people on site, the smaller the risk.

All pupils will need to ensure that they follow the different routines in the school. If any pupil puts the safety of other pupils or staff at risk, we will review their educational provision.

Please speak to your child and reassure them that the school have done everything possible to ensure a safe return to school as long as everyone follows the guidance.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. We'll continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

Have a pleasant, enjoyable, and safe last week of the summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr J Christey**  
**Headteacher**

