



KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL

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23rd October 2020

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of this first half term after the lockdown period, I wanted to thank you all for your continued support. The pupils have come back magnificently and we are all extremely proud of what they have accomplished over this very different period.

The focus of this half term was predominantly about settling back into the routine of working in a school environment. This, on top of the many procedures that we have put in place, made this half term a very different experience. When we return we would like to get back to following the high expectations that we have in school. Some pupils had returned in September with uniform that does not follow the uniform policy, and initially we were relaxed in our approach as we wanted everyone to come back settled. However, going forward I have listed below some of the expectations that I wanted to make clear.

- All pupils should be wearing black shoes. A number of pupils are wearing black trainers and these need to be changed as a matter of urgency.
- Trousers should be formal, and plain black. They should not have any designs embroidered on them; be striped; or have zipped pockets. They should be full-length, covering the ankles and have a waistband so that the shirt can be tucked into them. Trousers should be fitted and not skin tight. Denim, stretch, canvas or corduroy material is not permitted.
- A black knee length skirt is optional. If a belt is worn this should be plain black, with a standard buckle.
- The school's official blue blazer is to be worn at all times by all pupils. A school v-neck jumper is optional to wear under the blazer; normally a choice during colder weather. We have also said that during the pandemic we will allow pupils to wear the school PE hoodie under their blazer. This is due to the fact that many more doors and windows are open to aid ventilation.
- Jewellery - in the interest of safety, pupils may only wear one pair of small matching stud earrings. In accordance with Health and Safety issues no other body piercings should be worn in school. One rubber charity band can be worn if the pupil wishes. A simple formal watch can be worn. Smart and fashion watches cannot.
- Key Stage 3 pupils should not wear make-up in school. Key Stage 4 pupils may wear inconspicuous make-up.
- No pupils should wear nail varnish, fake nails or nails with stuck on/glued on fashion accessories.

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- We do expect pupils to wear a face covering in communal areas. Those pupils that have a medical exemption have a yellow badge to stop them constantly being asked to wear a mask. Can I please ask again that on the day that your child has PE, you ensure that they have not left their mask in their blazer. This is a common mistake and something that we want to improve.
- In previous letters, I have explained the many procedures and resources that we have put in place to keep the pupils and the staff safe. However, the impact of all of these things can be quickly undone with a few common mistakes. Firstly, can I once again ask parents to speak to their child about not going to the shops in the morning? We spend the day in school keeping the year groups in bubbles, and a number of pupils are going to the shops with pupils of different year groups. We will be challenging any pupils going to the shops in the morning.
- Secondly, we have communicated a lot of advice about what to do if someone has symptoms or tests positive with Coronavirus. We have a very robust system in school that monitors which pupils are self-isolating and when they can safely return to school. To clarify, if anyone within the household has symptoms, this should result in everyone self-isolating in that household. This should be maintained for 14 days or until a negative test result is confirmed. No pupils should be sent to school if they have a member of the household with symptoms or they have come into contact with anyone who has tested positive with Coronavirus. Any absence due to Coronavirus is recorded with a code that does not impact upon a pupil's attendance.
- Another change to make in the future is how we offer Parents' Evenings. I am sure that you appreciate that we cannot have large groups of parents on site at any one time. Therefore, we are looking at using the same system you have all used previously to make appointments, but you will be able to see and speak to your child's teachers virtually. Hopefully, this will allow all parents that vital opportunity to discuss their child's progress and attainment. More information will be sent out before your child's Parents Evening.
- Finally, SEND reviews will take place during the first two weeks of next half term. This year, these will be carried out by the learning mentors who support each student within school. They will be contacting parents to discuss how things are going, progress and any questions or concerns.

I would like to wish you all a pleasant and safe half term, and look forward to welcoming the pupils back.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Christey
Headteacher