



KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL

ADDRESS: Dryden Crescent, Stafford, ST17 9YJ
TEL: 01785 258546
WEB: www.kevi.org.uk
EMAIL: headteacher@kevi.org.uk
HEADTEACHER: Mr J Christey

25th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to write to you all to offer an update on how we have settled back in to school and to emphasise some important points.

Firstly, thank you to all of our school community who have adhered to the measures put in place to keep pupils and staff safe on our return to school. Things have not always been easy but on the whole pupils have understood the need for these changes and have done their best to stick to them.

Some of the things we are doing in school to reduce the risk of spreading the virus include:

- Staggered school start and end times.
- Staggered break and lunchtimes.
- Distance pupils as much as possible within their classroom setting.
- Open windows and doors where possible to increase air flow.
- Altering the school timetable to vastly reduce the number of times pupils have to move throughout the school.
- Dedicated areas for different year groups during their break and lunch periods.
- Encouraging staff and pupils to wear face coverings, where they are able to.
- Provide appropriate PPE for First Aid staff or other relevant roles
- Reduced the number of people entering the school site.
- Purchased additional cleaning hours so a cleaner moves through the school cleaning high contact points regularly throughout the day.
- Monitor the number of pupils using school toilets at any one time, closed a number of cubicles to increase spacing and encourage pupils to use ones specific to their year group.
- Provide hand wash and hand sanitiser throughout the school.
- We closely monitor pupils who are absent with Covid-19 related issues.

As a school we are doing our best reduce the risks of spreading the virus but we rely heavily on parents/carers being honest, transparent and timely in their actions too.

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This week you will have been given the chance to read our annual attendance letter. This letter has to be sent on an annual basis at the start of each school year to all parents/carers and it is something we have done for a number of years now. We must be clear with our parents, carers and pupils what the expectations are in relation to school attendance, but this does not mean that advice from Public Health England about when not to send your child to school should be ignored. This includes clear guidance around Coronavirus which we have shared with you previously and we have also placed on the home page of our school website.

In addition, we are including an attached letter from the NHS Test and Track service which we have been asked to share with you all. I urge parents to read this and follow the principles included.

It is vital that we all follow the rules. I understand that these are challenging and trying times, but sending children to school who display these symptoms undoes all the hard work put in by our staff, pupils and other parents. It is also essential that you inform us of a positive Covid-19 result immediately via the school phone if we are open, or email office@kevi.org.uk if school is closed. Failure to do these things is potentially placing people at risk and that is unacceptable.

If you are a parent/carer whose child receives Free School Meals then please contact the school if you wish to access this provision during an individual isolation period. There will be a separate system in place in the event of a whole year group bubble closure. Lastly, thank you to all the parents/carers and pupils who were such a support this week when the least desired outcome happened, and despite all of our best efforts we were put in a situation where we had no option but to follow Public Health England advice and close the Year 9 bubble to pupils. Although it was something we've never experienced before the pupils did themselves proud and we were able to act swiftly. I would, however, like to make it clear to parents/carers that it is extremely important that you make sure we have your most up to date contact information. Please where possible also provide us with additional contacts for emergencies.

I also need to remind parents/carers that if a child is sent home to self-isolate then they should not be leaving the house. We have received reports of multiple pupils being out and about in their local communities when they should not be. This is disappointing and as pupils of this school I expect them to represent King Edward VI High School in a positive manner. Please ensure your child remains at home if they are asked to self-isolate.

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In spite of this, I ask parents/carers not to share rumours or misinformation via social media as this can create panic as well as further risks. If you have a concern about anything relating to the school please contact us directly to have these discussions. If you have a concern regarding members of the public not adhering to government then we request you contact 101 for further advice as this type of concern is a Public Order issue.

As always, thank you for your continued support, particularly during these new and often strange times. If you have any worries or concerns at all, please don't hesitate to contact either your child's Progress Leader or the school office who will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Christey
Headteacher

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