



KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr J Christey

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Many thanks for completing the online form so that we can plan the phased return of our pupils from Monday 8th March 2021 in relation to the lateral flow testing (LFT) of pupils. All virtual lessons will continue until your child returns to school.

If you have requested that your child is tested

Parents that have signaled that they want their child to be tested on their return to school will receive a consent form in the post that needs to be signed and returned when your child comes for their test. Remember, these LFT's are voluntary and identify people that may be carrying the virus with no symptoms (asymptomatic). This will be an extra precautionary measure on top of everything else that I have explained previously to ensuring both our pupils and staff can work safely in school. Your child, upon arrival at school, should immediately report to the Sports Hall.

These pupils will have three tests over the next two weeks. Once they have completed these tests the school will issue two lateral flow devices for staff and pupils to use at home each week. I would like to request that you keep the school informed of the outcomes of the tests each week for our records.

If you do not want your child to be tested at school

For the pupils whose parents have not consented to the LFT's, they should attend school as normal on their designated day for their year group and go straight to their form room.

If you child is in Y11, 12 or 13

We would like to offer the LFT for Years 11, 12, and 13 on Friday 5th March 2021. This would mean that these pupils come into school on Friday purely for their LFT and then go home. These year groups can come into school on the 8th March and go straight into their normal lessons. The parents of these pupils should book their child's test appointment using the Parent Evening Booking System from Monday 1st March at 3.00 pm.

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Returning to school for all year groups

After reviewing the number of pupils who require the LFT's and considering the logistics of how this is done, as well as running a normal school day, the following phased return will be applied:

Monday 8th March 2021 – Years 11, 12, and 13 return to school

Tuesday 9th March 2021 – Year 10 return to school

Wednesday 10th March 2021 – Year 7 return to school

Thursday 11th March 2021 – Year 8 return to school

Friday 12th March 2021 – Year 9 return to school

Years 7 – 10 arriving at school

On the day that your child returns to school, if they catch school transport or the public bus they should attend at the normal time. Anyone **NOT** having an LFT can also come in at the normal time. Any child who **IS** having an LFT, who does not come in on school transport will be allocated a specific time for their test after which they can begin their lessons.

All the pupils that currently attend because they are classed as vulnerable, have critical worker parents, or have an EHCP should attend as normal, as they have done since the start of lockdown.

Face Masks

Some parents have asked questions about face coverings. All pupils and staff should be wearing face coverings (unless medically exempt) in communal areas as well as in classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained. Some parents have asked what is acceptable as a face covering. Face visors cannot be worn as a replacement for a face covering. Please see the definition from gov.uk below.

'A face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. You can buy reusable or single-use face coverings. You may also use a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face'.

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The government have said they will review this at Easter and decide whether pupils need to continue wearing face coverings in classrooms.

Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from the start dates given above.

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- it is the parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

As usual, the school is responsible for recording attendance, following up absence and reporting children missing education to the local authority. If you have any concerns about your child returning to school then please contact their Progress Leader to discuss your concerns further.

Returning Computer Equipment

We will contact those pupils that received laptops, notebooks or dongles about returning their equipment in due course.

I am sure you can see that the school is following all of the guidelines that are directed by the Government to ensure that the pupils and staff are safe in school. It is of the utmost importance that parents and pupils are following the Government's guidelines outside the school as well. A number of parents and pupils will have anxieties around coming back to school, knowing that pupils are congregating in large numbers and socialising with different year groups would understandably raise concerns and we are keen to avoid this and keep our pupils and staff safe. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we all play our part in keeping everyone safe.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school. Hopefully, most questions have been answered however, if you do still have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Christey
Headteacher