



23 February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Like you, I had looked forward to the ‘roadmap’ that was unveiled on 22nd February and am delighted that we will be able to welcome all students back into Kings for face to face provision.

Having read and reviewed all of the supplementary documentation, I am writing to you today to set out the process by which we will be returning to full in school provision for all students in the week beginning 8th March.

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory** for all students from 8th March – although due to the testing process (below), some students will not be back until Wednesday 10th March.

Testing

All children are to be offered 3 rapid lateral flow tests in school, before receiving home testing kits in order to test themselves twice weekly at home. These results will need to be shared with NHS Track and Trace, and also with the school. More details about the process here will follow in the coming days. Tests are not statutory, but are highly recommended. You will shortly receive a message seeking your consent.

The table below sets out the plan for testing over the first three days – you will receive specifics of the time that your child should arrive at school later this week.

Date	Testing	Lessons in school	Remote provision
Monday 8 th March	8.30 – 11.00 – Year 11 13.00 – 15.00pm – small group of individually selected students	Year 11 (p.2 and 3)	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
Tuesday 9 th March	8.30 – 11.00 – Year 10 12.00 – 15.00pm – Year 7 (who will come in for a test only and then immediately go home)	Year 11 Year 10 (p.2 and 3)	Years 7, 8 and 9
Wednesday 10 th March	8.30 – 11.00 – Year 9 12.00 – 15.00pm – Year 8 (who will come in for a test only and then immediately go home)	Year 11 Year 10 Year 7 Year 9 (p.2 and 3)	

All students will be in lessons as per timetable from Thursday 11th March and will come out of lessons to be tested two further times before receiving the kits to self-test at home.

Practicalities in school

One of the biggest changes to the guidance is that all students, except those who are medically exempt, will be expected to wear face coverings as they move around school, and also during lessons (except PE/Dance).

We will continue to operate our 'bubbles'. These will be the bubbles originally planned to start after Christmas:

Bubble 1 – Year 7 and Year 10. Students will enter through the traditional student entrance by the library. Brunch and lunch will be in the quad, the library, the 3G (school side) and a newly formed basketball court behind PE and be able to access the usual range of catering in the canteen within the Performing Arts block.

Bubble 2 – Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11. Students will use the entrance by the cloakroom. Brunch and lunch will be in the playground, the canteen and the 3G (far side).

A full canteen service will be available in both bubbles at both brunch and lunchtime.

Students should arrive at school in full school uniform and will be expected to use the hand sanitiser provided as they arrive at school, before and after eating, and as they arrive in each classroom.

Whilst we are aware that some students have experimented with different hair colours over lockdown, it is expected that students should have natural hair colouring by 8th March. A reminder that nail varnish and false nails are not permitted in school.

We continue to be a phone free school, and students should only bring water or small cartons of fruit juice (not squash) in. Other drinks will be confiscated as before.

Following the impressive fundraising activities in the run up to Christmas, we are delighted that all students who raised £2 or more from their 5km challenge will receive a high quality free metal water bottle. Other students will be able to purchase one via ParentPay for £2. This is an excellent opportunity to reduce the amount of plastics being used within the school, which was the aim of the Environment Committee within the Student Leadership Team. Bottles will be distributed during the first week of school.

A message will come home shortly about how to purchase uniform prior to 8th March for students who have recently joined the school, or other students who have outgrown their old uniforms. Should you wish to donate uniform items that have been outgrown, please do let us know. A reminder that Kings branded leggings will be available to purchase as part of the PE kit. Non-Kings leggings are not permitted.

Catch up

Most students have worked hard during lock down and consequently shown excellent progress. As per our previous return from lockdown, students who have fallen behind will receive a separate letter from Mr Ferguson about moving to extended school days in order to complete missed work.

Teachers are mindful of a need to spend some lesson time re-capping and developing some of the topics studied remotely and will incorporate this in their curriculum and lesson plans.

We will be utilising the additional funding provided by government for the National Tutoring Programme for additional tuition where it is deemed necessary by staff. Parents will be contacted directly about this once students are settled at school again.

Homework and after school clubs

We intend to offer a full range of after school clubs as we return. Full details will be published on the website and advertised to students directly.

Students will be set much of their homework on Microsoft Teams, which has proved highly successful and has allowed improved feedback for students. Please do ensure that we are aware if technology may make this problematic for you.

Year 11 GCSEs

We hope to have more information about the national plans for the awarding of GCSE grades for year 11 students later this week, and will contact Year 11 students and parents as soon as we have this information.

Final thoughts

This has been a period of prolonged disruption to the lives and learning for everyone. It has also been a period of time where we have seen remarkable kindness at both a local and national level from people and businesses, as well as an increased appreciation for the work of those people who keep our communities both functioning, and also thriving.

I would ask that we at Kings draw strength and inspiration from these, and show our appreciation by demonstrating the levels of kindness, good humour and community spirit which have been so key to all of our lives.

My team and I are really looking forward to re-welcoming all of our students back into school. There is a big job for us all to do – staff, parents and students alike - and collectively we will roll up our sleeves and take a big step back towards normality. We all deserve it.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. McKenzie
Principal