



26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important information about the full reopening of school

I hope you and your family are well and your child is finding the remote learning provided by the school valuable. Please encourage your child to keep up their efforts in terms of attendance and engagement, which has been very good so far.

Parents' Information Meeting – 3 March, 4pm

As you may be aware the government has now advised that schools should reopen from 8 March. However, ahead of the full-time return of students, schools are required to put in place a number of measures. It is important that you attend a live webinar where I will set out how we will fully reopen the school and answer any questions you may have.

DATE: 3 March 2021 TIME: 4pm – 5pm

You must register in advance to access this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZdCFThbUQju7dK69fNjyhQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Key Dates

We are looking forward to welcoming back our students. Students will return to **full-time timetabled lessons in school** as follows:

<u>Key Stage 3</u>	<u>Key Stage 4</u>	<u>Key Stage 5</u>
Year 7: Wednesday 17 March	Year 10: Thursday 11 March	Year 12: Wednesday 10 March
Year 8: Monday 15 March	Year 11: Wednesday 10 March	Year 13: Wednesday 10 March
Year 9: Thursday 11 March		

As you will appreciate with over 2,000 students attending Kingsbury High School we need to stagger the return in this way to prioritise students receiving exam grades this year whilst at the same time conducting required COVID-19 testing before school fully reopens.

Attendance is mandatory when the school reopens for your child and we will remain open for our vulnerable students and children of critical workers throughout.

Testing

Secondary schools are now offering students asymptomatic testing (lateral flow tests) as part of control measures against COVID-19. Schools are required to offer the first three of these tests on-site and this is why we must phase the return of students during the first week to manage the number of individuals passing through our test site at any one time. We will offer three tests to each student 3 to 5 days apart. Tests are free of charge and this link takes you to [a NHS instructional leaflet](#) with more information on how the self-administered test process works.

Students are able to return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Whilst testing is voluntary, I would encourage all students to undergo testing as a further strategy in keeping our community safe and well. Pupils not undergoing testing will attend school in line with our phased return arrangements outlined above.

Following these three initial on-site tests, both students and staff will be supplied with test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and students will then report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and students will also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with the school to help with contact tracing.

If you consent to your child getting tested at school, please complete the form here: <https://forms.gle/ratzhuZFJJe2etuX7>. This link is related to students in years 7 to 11. The consent form for sixth form students will be sent directly to those students. The school's privacy notice can be found on the [school website](#).

Examinations

Yesterday, Ofqual published outcomes of their consultation on plans for awarding qualifications in 2021. Alongside these plans, a statement was published for students which can be accessed [here](#).

The key points to note are:

- Grades this year will be based on teacher assessment only
- Teachers will use a range of evidence in order to determine a final grade
- Evidence can be gathered from across the course of study
- Students will be informed about which pieces of evidence will be used
- Grades will be submitted at the end of June
- Teachers will continue to support students in preparing for assessments and preparing students for their next steps
- Results will be released: A Levels 10 August; and GCSEs 12 August
- An appeals process will be put in place

We know this has been a stressful time for students but it is good that clarity is now emerging on what students can expect. We await additional information from the

examination boards so that we are in a position to share further, more specific detail with you. Please be assured we will continue to keep you informed at every step.

Further Communication

We have planned our return based on current government guidance. If there are any changes to this guidance we will ensure that you are kept informed of any alteration to our approach. Planning is in place to ensure the safe return of our students whilst also acknowledging how challenging this will be for many. We have high expectations of our students and staff and look forward to working together to support a smooth transition to a full reopening.

I hope you have found this update useful and I look forward to seeing you on the webinar on 3 March at 4pm.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Alex Thomas
Headteacher