



16/7/20

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this update finds you well at the end of a very long and very unusual Summer Term. Thank you all so much for the support you've shown the College over the past 17 weeks since lockdown began.

This email outlines **our plans for September**. You will be aware the Government has asked schools to welcome back all students in September because the prevalence of COVID-19 is declining, and because of the impact on young people in prolonging school closures.

We are really excited to be able to welcome students back, and welcoming our new Year 7s. We will do this by making our school as safe as possible for students and staff, and therefore our community. Regardless of what measures are in place outside of schools, we know that we have an important role to play. Any manageable reduction in risk is a good thing for all of us.

We would like to reassure parents and carers that:

- We will adhere to **Government guidance**, as well as taking into account guidelines issued by trade unions, including Head-teacher unions.
- We know **Covid-19 remains an extremely serious threat** and we will treat it as such. We are mindful that so far we have been lucky our region has had a limited number of infections.
- We will continue to work closely with **Public Health England** to ensure that we respond promptly to any confirmed cases within our school community.

Risk Assessment

In order to open safely we are required to assess potential risk and show that it can be managed. Our current risk assessment is being updated in light of new government guidance. We will make it available to parents and carers before the new term starts.

In line with Department of Education guidance, our approach to managing risk will be based on:

- Making sure **anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus** (a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) does not attend school
- **Cleaning hands regularly** and having **good respiratory hygiene** (by practicing 'catch it, bin it, kill it')
- **Increasing and enhancing the amount of cleaning** happening in school, especially during the school day
- **Minimising contact between individuals** and maintaining **social distancing** wherever possible

New Arrangements for September

1. Bubbles

Many of you will be aware that the need to maintain social distancing and to minimise contact has led schools to 'bubble' students into groups that then do not have contact with each other once at school. Even though students might mix outside of school, this approach is important in helping lower the potential for infection.

From September, we will ensure that **all students in Years 7 to 11 are in year group bubbles**. These students will have all of their lessons on the Redworth site. Each bubble will be based in a different part of the site and will have their own classrooms, social areas and toilets/ handwashing facilities.

Students in Years 12, 13 and 14 (including Foundation Art) will be in one bubble. They will have their lessons and social/study time at Kennicott. This bubble also has their own handwashing and toilet facilities.

Within their bubbles, **students will be able to attend different classes with different teachers** and in different groups - just as they would pre-lockdown.

2. Curriculum

We will be running **all of our usual curriculum subjects for all students**, including those in Year 11 and 13. We feel that the wide variety of subjects is a fundamental part of students' experience at KEVICC. We have tried to keep classrooms available for teachers to teach practical elements of their subjects whenever possible, but unfortunately the amount of practical work will be limited.

3. Tutor Groups

A consequence of having year group bubbles is that we will have to temporarily change our tutor groups to only have groups of students from the same year. We recognise that this is disruptive to existing students and families, as well as our new Year 7s, but it is essential to minimise contact.

We will continue to use as many staff as possible to maintain our **small tutor group sizes**, and of course we will still have our **Heads of House** who will be able to respond to any pastoral queries or concerns.

4. The College Day

We have planned to make some minor adjustments to the College day. We are keen to make the absolute most of our tutor group time, not least to help us deliver our new reading strategy to all students in Years 7-11. To help this, and to support us in delivering great pastoral care and assemblies to our students, tutor time will be extended by 10mins, we will be having a slightly shorter break and lunch, and the school day will finish 5mins earlier. The new timings are below:

0850-0950	Lesson 1
0950-1050	Lesson 2
1050-1115	Tutorial
1115-1140	Break

1140-1240	Lesson 3
1240-1340	Lesson 4
1340-1415	Lunch
1415-1515	Lesson 5

To minimise contact, each year group bubble will have a separate area of the site to use at break and lunchtime. Unfortunately, students from different year groups will not be able to mix with each other. We are working with Aspens, our caterers, to make sure that all students can buy food on site, probably through advance orders made online, as access to the canteen will be limited.

5. Adjusted Start dates for Term

Although we have been able to do a lot virtually, we are acutely aware that our new Y7s have not had their usual chance to visit and settle into school in the summer term. We also want to make sure they have the chance to adjust to what will be a very different set of circumstances in September.

With this in mind, we are adjusting our return to school days to allow Y7s to begin slightly earlier, alongside our Year 11, 12 and 13 students who have important GCSE and A-level exams upcoming.

The first day of term for Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students will be **Monday 7 September**. All other year groups **will start on Tuesday 8 September**.

6. Uniform and Face Masks

All students will be in uniform as usual from September - please note that students are able wear the existing striped shirt or the new blue shirt available from Lawsons.

Whilst face masks are not required in school, we recognise that some students and some staff may feel more comfortable wearing one. Therefore, **face masks will be allowed**, however we will insist that any who choose to wear one follow all other social distancing and handwashing hygiene protocols, and of course anyone who has symptoms should not attend.

Students who wear face masks to school on public transport, but who wish to remove them once on site, should make sure they do so carefully, placing disposable masks in an appropriate covered bin, and reusable masks in a plastic bag for storage.

7. Attendance

We recognise that some parents and carers, and some students, will be anxious about returning to school. The government have been clear that **attendance will be compulsory for all students from September**, and we want to welcome all students back.

If you are worried or have concerns about returning, we would like to hear from you so that our pastoral team can work with you and support your young person to return. In the first instance, please contact them as follows:

Babbage House- Mike Morgan mmorgan@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Davis House- Alison Marshall amarshall@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Gyles House- Sally Hinchcliffe shinchcliffe@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Scott House- Nicola Ambrose nambrose@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Sixth Form- Amy Withers awithers@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

8. Distance Learning over the Summer

We know that many students and parents/ carers will be anxious about work missed during lockdown. Our google classrooms have lots of work students can revisit and revise, and we suggest consolidating and going over learning and topics already covered as the best approach to take.

Equally, it is most important that students start back in September refreshed and relaxed, so please do ensure you encourage your young person to balance school work with outdoors activity, time for family and friends, rest, and exercise.

9. Contact over the Summer

We will be in touch again with all parents and carers in **week beginning 31 August** to remind and confirm with you the start of term arrangements - this will include information on drop off and pick up and where on Redworth site your young person's bubble will be.

Our staff have worked very hard since 23 March and they deserve, as you all do, their own break and holidays. They have faced many of the challenges we have all shared around childcare, family and health concerns, and adjusting to very different working lives. As such, as with a 'normal' holiday, they will not be able to respond to parent or carer enquiries.

However, general enquiries will be picked up throughout the holidays at admin@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk and of course if you have an urgent or serious enquiry you can email me directly on asalt@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

10. Safeguarding

The safety of our students is always paramount. If you have any non-urgent safeguarding enquiries over the summer holiday period please email Kirsty Matthews or Sarah Winstone on kmatthews@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk or swinstone@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk.

For urgent enquiries please contact the Devon Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071 or mashsecure@devon.gov.uk or in an emergency please ring 999.

Finally, thank you all for your patience and support over what has been such a challenging term. We are not returning to 'normal' in September, and some of our students may be worried or feel unsettled by the changes we have to bring in. Please reassure them that they will soon settle back into school life and that we will support them every step of the way. We have all been so impressed with how students and families have coped so far with lockdown, and we know working together we will make September's return a successful one. We are so much looking forward to seeing KEVICC back full of young people again!

With very best wishes for the summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Salt
Principal