



25 September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

**Update: 25 September 2020**

The first few weeks of term have flown by, and it has been great to see students getting into the routine of school life and coping with the measures we have in place during the COVID-19 epidemic. This week we have finished our first round of lesson visits and it has been as always a real privilege to be around classes seeing the engagement in learning between students and teachers.

Of course, there is still much to get used to in the new school year, so this update addresses some key issues around COVID-19 and also feedback you have given us directly, whether through email contact or one of our regular Q&A sessions.

**1. COVID-19 Update**

Thank you as ever for being vigilant around possible COVID-19 symptoms and ensuring that if anyone in your household has these, that you follow self-isolation advice and your young person stays away from school.

I know that many of you have had frustrating times trying to arrange COVID-19 tests. Please be assured that this is an issue Headteachers have raised at a regional level, and it's something we have raised directly with Anthony Mangnall, MP for Totnes, who shares the concerns we outlined.

We would like to thank you as parents and carers for adhering so closely to the guidance even when it causes problems and inconvenience for you and family members, as it is so vital in keeping our school and community safe.

At the time of writing we have not had any confirmed positive cases amongst the school community since starting the year in September. However, I would like to reassure you that we have detailed procedures in place of what to do if this changes, including close liaison with Public Health England.

**2. Remote Learning**

If your young person is absent from school for a COVID-19 related reason, their absence is authorised and we will ensure there is school work for them to follow that matches what they would cover in school. Our approach for now works on 2 tiers.

**Tier 1** means that the school **remains fully open**, but we may have individual students self-isolating. This is what has happened over the past weeks and is likely to be the usual way of us working for the foreseeable future.

In this case, we will direct students to;

- Complete any homework set for them via Classcharts
- Check the new Remote Learning section of the website - this will link them to what the curriculum content for their subject is this term.
- Access existing home learning resources such as Oak National Academy which is signposted from our website. These have pre-recorded lessons and content delivered by a national team of qualified teachers.

We will ensure we check in once a week with students absent for COVID-19 related reasons starting next week, just to ensure they are accessing learning and to gauge how they are getting on. This contact will come through the pastoral team.

**Tier 2** means we have to temporarily close for one or more year groups. In this scenario, we will provide students' with live Google meet lessons running as per their usual timetable, and a Google classroom in place for each class in the school where they will be able to access tasks and get individual and group feedback from their teacher.

### **3. Homework**

Please remember how important homework is in supporting our taught curriculum - it is a real chance for your young person to embed and extend their knowledge and skills. All of our homework is set on Classcharts, so please make sure this is checked regularly.

### **4. WEDUC/ School App**

Thank you for your patience as we roll out the School App to parents and carers which over 90% of you have downloaded or accessed. We are aware of teething problems particularly with online payments being transferred across, and we are working hard to make sure these are resolved.

We will also shortly be able to make available your young persons' timetable on the App. We have waited until now to make sure any group changes at the start of term can be resolved first.

### **5. Catering**

Thank you again for supporting us whilst we work hard with Aspens to make sure their offer is as good as it can be in the circumstances. All food is now pre-ordered online, and you can order both this week's and next week's meals if you wish.

Please remind your young person they can buy food in person at the canteen once a week during morning break only; Y7 on Mondays, Y8 on Tuesdays, Y9 on Wednesdays, Y10 Thursdays and Y11 Fridays.

### **Parent and Carer Q and A**

We had another really successful online question and answer session open to all parents and carers yesterday. The next will be at **4pm on Thursday 8 October**. We will share the access code with you by email that day.

Please also note our first Parents Association Parent and Carer Voice meeting is coming up on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm**. This is run by our wonderful parents' association, and I will be there to listen and give answers to any questions or comments you might have.

Thank you again for the feedback you have given and continue to give, and for supporting your young people with their start to the year at KEVICC. I hope you all enjoy a peaceful and relaxing weekend.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alan Salt  
Principal