



30/3/21

Dear Parent or Carer,

Summer Term Arrangements

I hope this update finds you well as we reach the end of the Spring Term. As ever, during this term we have been so impressed with the way that students and their families have coped with an extended period of remote learning, and the return to full opening from 8 March. Over such a difficult year, it has been brilliant to see what students, staff and families have been able to achieve together.

Over the past weeks we have carefully reviewed our current arrangements and practices around COVID-19. We have had no confirmed cases of COVID in our school community since returning on 8 March, and we have paid particular attention to case numbers in our local area, which have remained at a low level compared to national averages.

We have also reviewed the positive cases we had in school up to Christmas, and how our system of tracing and isolating close contacts has operated. We are pleased by the fact that in each of the positive cases we had, we have no evidence of transmission within groups at school - i.e. we have had no close contacts of positive cases that have then tested positive themselves.

This does not mean that COVID does not remain a significant risk for our community, or that we should take the threat it can pose any less seriously. However, it does mean that we can use this information in reviewing the measures we put in place to keep students and staff safe. With this in mind, we will be introducing some changes to our arrangements for the Summer Term when we return to school on 19 April.

What will change from 19 April

From 19 April we will:

1. Return to usual rooming and timetabling for lessons

This will mean that students will have lessons across the Redworth site depending on the subject they are studying. This will mean an end to students having to remain in their year group 'bubbles'. We will issue new timetables to all students on the morning of 19 April.

2. Break and lunch

At break and lunch, students will not have to stay in their 'bubble'. They will be allowed to mix with friends from outside their year groups. All students will be able to access the canteen at both break and lunch should they wish.

We will keep some areas restricted to some year groups, so that younger students can spend their break with their peers if they wish:

Year 7 will have exclusive use of the upstairs of English and Maths and one tennis court. They will also have exclusive use of their current mobile toilet block.

Year 8 will have exclusive use of the downstairs of English and Maths and one tennis court.

To further promote safety in lessons and in movement around the site, we will make sure:

- Desks in all classrooms are **wiped down** at the end of every lesson;
- Teachers **meet and greet** classes to avoid crowding in corridors and communal areas;
- An **enhanced queue management** system is put in place in the canteen to manage this area whilst avoiding crowding;
- **One-way** systems are applied in specific areas to avoid crowding.
- We will retain our **current extra toilet facilities** to help avoid crowding.

What will stay the same

We will still follow closely the systems of control outlined in DfE guidance and we will welcome your support in doing so:

- Anyone with **symptoms that might be COVID-19** must stay away from school and inform studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk at the earliest opportunity.
- We will practice excellent **hand and respiratory hygiene**, with sanitizer available in all classrooms and throughout the school.
- We will **respond promptly to any new confirmed cases** and work with Public Health England to ensure close contacts are traced and follow isolation guidelines.
- We will **maintain seating plans and classroom layouts** that help minimize wherever possible close contact between students.
- We will continue to follow DfE guidance promoting the use of **LFT tests** to help pick up asymptomatic cases in our school community.
- We will continue to ensure **good ventilation** in classrooms and indoor spaces.
- We will continue to ensure **enhanced cleaning** across the school site.
- We will continue to follow DfE guidance on the use of **face coverings**. At the time of writing, this remains unchanged and face coverings should be worn indoors at school by all those without exemptions. The DfE have committed to reviewing this measure “at Easter”, and if this guidance changes we will inform parents and carers without delay.

Students will need to be on-site for 19 April at the usual time of 08:45. Students will be asked to go to their existing form group room where we will ensure they receive their new timetables and guidance from their tutor if they are unsure of where rooms are.

We have taken the decisions above very carefully, and it is important to understand that we will keep all measures under review. Should the situation in school or in our local community worsen, we may need to change our approach. However, our assessment is that with the above measures in place we can continue to operate safely whilst minimizing disruption to our students’ education. We have paid close attention as ever to national guidance from both the DfE and trade unions in our decision making, as well as looking closely at measures in place in other local schools.

Please, as ever, email me directly if you have questions or comments on these changes. In addition to this, I will be hosting a **live online session tomorrow, Wednesday 31 March from 5pm-6pm** to help answer any queries or hear feedback that you have. The code for this meeting will be sent to parents and carers via Weduc tomorrow.

Thank you again for the support you continue to show your young person and the College throughout this time.

Yours sincerely,

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

Alan Salt
Principal