



14 May 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this finds you well. We have had a really busy start to the Summer Term, although many times this week we have had to remind ourselves we are not in the middle of November, given the very wet weather!

As many of you will have seen, the government this week published new guidance on the wearing of face coverings in schools. These changes are effective from Monday 17 May.

1. **What changes from Monday 17 May**

From Monday, face coverings are **no longer recommended for students in classrooms or in communal areas**. Therefore, we will not require students to wear them.

For staff, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms, but staff and visitors are still expected to wear them in communal areas where they cannot socially distance, e.g. corridors.

2. **What stays the same from Monday 17 May**

Students and staff who wish to **will be allowed to continue to wear face coverings** anywhere in school, including in class. This is because we want to actively encourage and support students who wish to continue wearing face coverings to do so.

We will ensure that no student is disadvantaged should they choose to wear a face covering. We still hold stocks of face coverings and will continue to offer them to students if they wish to wear them.

Face coverings **remain mandatory on all school transport and public transport** for all students who do not have exemptions.

In line with DfE guidance, we will also be prepared to reintroduce the requirement for face coverings in response to localised outbreaks, including those involving new variants, and will be guided on this by local Public Health England and Devon County Council advice.

3. **Other COVID Safety Measures**

**All our other safety measures** around COVID-19 will continue to be in place. These include;

- Anyone with **symptoms that might be COVID-19** must stay away from school and inform [studentabsences@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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 twice weekly **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.
4. **Enrichment**

It was great to reflect with parents and carers at yesterday's online Q and A on how, gradually since Easter, something approaching normality is returning to school life. It has been especially reassuring to see our enrichment clubs begin again in sports and performing arts, and to see the school visits and performances start to appear in the calendar for later this summer. We cannot wait for the likes of Sprung and the Duality music festival!

5. **Learning**

Equally, we have been so impressed by the way in which students continue to apply themselves to the high standards of learning we see around the College on a daily basis. A quick look at our twitter feed @kevicc for this week shows some of the great learning we are seeing. Our Y11 and Y13 students and staff deserve a special mention for the amazing efforts going into their assessments which will help us decide GCSE and A-level grades in the absence of exams this summer.

6. **Pastoral Care**

We are acutely aware as ever of the importance of excellent pastoral care to help our students achieve and be happy in school, especially as we deal with the after effects of lockdown. Students on the whole have been amazingly resilient, and we are so proud of the work our counselling team and mentors are able to do for those in most need. This is possible through the support of the Foundation Governors charity, and we are really excited about another initiative to promote great mental health which we have secured external support and funding for – we're just finalising the details on this one so watch this space!

7. **Uniform**

Thank you for all of you who have been in touch regarding our drive to ensure consistency in uniform. This is an important part of College life, and we are at pains to ensure our uniform policy is sensible, value for money to parents and carers, and consistently applied. We also always commit to working sensitively with our students and parents and carers to ensure the highest standards of uniform. We will continue to work with you over the coming weeks to achieve this and would welcome any feedback by email.

Finally, we would want to assure all parents and carers that our commitment to taking all necessary safety measures around COVID remains as strong as ever. It is encouraging that we have had only 2 confirmed cases in our school community since the start of 2021, with the most recent being at the start of February. This is now many months, many face to face lessons, and many LFT tests ago. However, we can assure you we are not complacent, and we are most mindful of those in our community who are most vulnerable.

Our next online **Q and A is scheduled for 5.30-6.30pm on Tuesday 25 May**, so please come along to give your comments and feedback, and in the meantime, have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Salt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Alan Salt  
**Principal**