



Dear Parents and Carer

## Arrangements for September 2021

I should apologise in advance for the length of this letter. There is a lot of information that you need to know about next year. This letter will, of course, be on the school website throughout the summer for your reference. However, before we start to think about next year can I remind you that school closes to students for the summer holiday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 12:25 pm. School buses have confirmed they will pick students up at this time.

### 1) Start of Term

You will already know that the government expect schools to offer students two lateral flow tests on their return to school. This is because we know that school is safer if students complete an on-site test and I would encourage everyone to participate if you are able to. Of course, the tests can only happen if appropriate consent is in place from the student and parents. The tests will be administered by the students themselves with appropriate supervision by a trained member of staff. In order to meet the requirement to run this testing on the school site:

- All students will be offered an appointment to attend school for their 1<sup>st</sup> Lateral Flow Test on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Students will only attend school for their appointment and should return home immediately following the test and wait for their test result. Kirsty Andrews, our Business and Operations Manager, will be in touch with parents with more details about this during the summer.
- Year 7 students will return to school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. School transport will run as normal and they should arrive on-site before the gates are locked at 8:40 am where staff will welcome them and direct them to their tutor room.
- Year 12 students will return to school on the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. The Sixth Form team will give more details on this when students enrol for the Sixth Form during the summer.
- All other year groups will return to school on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Students must arrive before 8:40 am and must report to their tutor rooms for a prompt 8:45 am start
- Students will be offered their second on-site Lateral Flow Test during the school day on either the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> of September. Unlike the 1<sup>st</sup> September, students should attend school as normal before and after their test on these days.

### 2) Timings of the school day from September 2021

The timings of the school day from September 2021 are set out on this [page of the school website](#). Please note that:

- morning registration will start at 8:45 am and run for 15 minutes.
- the school gates will be locked at 8:40 am so that students can enter their tutor room for a prompt 8:45 am start. This is an important safeguarding measure once all students are on site
- the school buses will arrive at school in time for students to enter the school site before 8:40 am. If there are any changes to bus timetables then we will notify you and update the [information on the website](#)

- students who arrive after 8:40 am will continue to have to report to the leisure centre late gate
- there are no other changes to the school day

Staff across the school have noticed that many students are struggling to get back into the good habits and routines of school and learning that underpin success at school. In September we are extending morning registration to give more opportunities to enable pastoral teams to ensure that students are set up for success for the rest of the school day. Our pastoral teams across the school are putting in place plans to ensure that tutor time is used purposefully to: resolve any issues that may have arisen the previous day; reinforce key messages from the Personal Development Curriculum; and ensure that all students are ready to learn throughout the remainder of the day.

### 3) Uniform

Thank you for everything that you continue to do to ensure that your children wear the school uniform correctly. Please remember that our uniform and appearance expectations are set out on the [website](#). Please note that from September 2021 students who choose to wear the School Skirt must wear plain black tights. Socks can only be worn if students are wearing school trousers. The website also provides a helpful pictorial guide to acceptable school shoes and how the school skirt should be worn. Please do review this before you make any purchases.

### 4) Control Measures from September 2021

The government have set out the Covid-19 Control Measures that they expect schools to have in place at the start of the Autumn Term. These measures are set out on the [Control Measures](#) page of our school website. At the moment you will have to scroll down the page until you get to September's control measures, during the summer this section will move to the top of the page. I would encourage all parents and carers to read through this information on the website and discuss it with your child/children before they return to school. However, some key headlines are:

- **The requirement for students to not mix with others from different year groups will no longer be in place.** This means that:
  - All students will have the same start and end of the school day
  - Break and lunch will no longer be staggered. The school site means that it is not possible to do this without continued significant disruption to lessons across the school.
- **All students will still be required to follow the one-way system at all times as they move around school.** Students have reported that they have found that this has made school safer and calmer as they move around school. The only time this will not apply is when students are following the queuing system for the canteens at break and lunch. Students who do not do so may be given a sanction in line with the school behaviour policy
- **Students will still be required to sit side-by-side facing the front in all lessons.** This will be reviewed before the October half term. Some subjects may choose to seat students differently in order to facilitate practical lessons.
- **Students will still be able to use their contactless cards to pay for food and drink in the canteen**
- **Parents' evenings will run online for the Autumn and Spring term when this will be reviewed**

- **Parents should still not report to school without an appointment.**
- **Good personal hygiene, enhanced cleaning and increased ventilation will remain at the centre of our work in keeping school safe:**
  - Students will still be expected to sanitise their hands every time they enter classrooms or working spaces
  - Classrooms and other work spaces will continue to be well ventilated. Students will still be able to wear a plain black, long-sleeved V-neck jumper under their blazer if they choose to. Please note this is not instead of the school blazer.
  - Students will continue to be encouraged to exercise good respiratory hygiene – “catch-it, bin-it, kill-it”
  - Face coverings will be optional but will be enforced if there are local outbreaks of the virus

Please do be reassured that we will work with students on their return to school to ensure that they understand the control measures that will be in place and what our expectations are of them.

**5) Catch –Up.** The government has launched an [information site for parents](#), to support children of all age ranges and abilities to catch up on lost learning from the pandemic. The site features advice and support for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as programmes, resources and activities for children and young people this summer.

**6) Staffing Changes from September 2021.** As ever, we end the year having to say goodbye to valued colleagues who are moving onto new challenges and opportunities next year.

Rob Yates, Sarah Juniper and Chris Stoddart are all moving on at the end of term. All of them have made significant contributions to our great school over a number of years and will be sadly missed. We are also saying goodbye to Sarah Livings who has led our Sixth Form for many years. Under Sarah’s leadership Kimberley Sixth Form has become the highest performing Sixth Form in the area and is the first choice destination for students within and beyond our community. Anyone who has worked with Sarah will know that she is absolutely relentless in the work she does to ensure that all young people have access to a high quality education and receive the support they need to be successful. Sarah will be much missed by us all.

Gemma Blacow will not be with us next year as she has taken up the opportunity for a secondment to the Senior Leadership Team of a school within the East Midlands Education Trust. Sarah Weedon will be starting maternity leave in September. Tricia Fitzsimons has been working with us in Drama on a temporary basis for this academic year and is leaving us again at the end of this week. Ryan Grundy, Vicki Wilson, Paul Jenkins, Claire Rawdin and Ben Prior are leaving us after a short period of time at Kimberley School. We are grateful for their contribution during this challenging year.

Kimberley School is only as good as it is because of the great staff who work here. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for the difference that they have made to the young people in our community and wishing them well for the future.

## **Finally**

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support throughout the most challenging year I have known in education. With your support we have navigated whatever challenges have come our way and are well prepared to welcome students back in September and continue to ensure that they have

access to high quality education and support at Kimberley School. I do hope that you are able to enjoy some time with family and friends in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. George'.

Andrew George  
Head Teacher