



26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

What a week that was! I know that you will be feeling overwhelmed by the information coming from the government and ourselves, here is a summary of what I think you need to know.

### **Wider Opening of School.**

In my letter to you on the [24<sup>th</sup> February](#), I set out to you the arrangements for March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our intention is to offer all students the opportunity to participate in asymptomatic testing on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March. This will mean that school will reopen to all students on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The letter sets out how you can give consent for your child to take part in the testing on 7<sup>th</sup> March. If you haven't already done this, then you can use these links indicate if you are or are not giving consent:

- All students who are 16 years or older must now complete this [online form](#) to indicate whether they give their consent to participating in the testing. I would strongly advise that you work through this form with your child.
- Parents of children who are younger than 16 must now complete this [online form](#). If you have more than one child under the age of 16 at Kimberley School, you will need to complete the form for each child.

The full details of the testing arrangements were set out in the letter. The more students who participate in this, the safer we can make school as students' return. I cannot insist that students participate in this but I would strongly encourage them to do so.

More information will be shared next week about how students will return to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please do remember that in my letter I did set out that the testing programme for the 7<sup>th</sup> March was ambitious and there may be circumstances where we have to delay the return to school until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. I would ask that parents have contingency plans in place for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the event that school is unable to open.

### **Control Measures and Face Coverings**

The Covid Control Measures that will be in place from the 8<sup>th</sup> March are set out on our [website](#). Here you can find the full details of what we expect of students and parents as school opens to everyone. I would urge you to read through them with your child/children, changes to the measures that were in place in the Autumn Term have been highlighted in red.

Included in this information are the details on how we will implement the new government expectation that students wear face coverings in lessons. For ease, I have reproduced this information at the end of this letter.

### **School attendance**

School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The only exemptions to this statement are those individual students who have been confirmed as Clinically Extremely

Vulnerable (CEV); where the advice is they should continue to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. If your child has been identified as CEV you should have already been provided with the medical evidence to suggest/support this. If this applies to your son or daughter please could you contact Mr Knapczyk, so arrangements can be made ([d.knapczyk@kimberleyschool.co.uk](mailto:d.knapczyk@kimberleyschool.co.uk)). If you have not received this information, the expectation is your child will return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Year 11 and Year 13. Awarding Grades**

Ofqual yesterday published their plan for how qualifications will be awarded in 2021. At this early stage I would urge you to look at two documents with your son or daughter:

- This simple [infographic](#) sets out how GCSEs, AS and A-Levels will be awarded
- This [article from Ofqual's Chief Regulator](#) sets out to students how grades (including for Cambridge Technical) will be awarded; and

Together these two documents will give parents and students an overview of how the process will work.

Senior Leaders and Subject Performance Leaders across the school will now be working to understand how this will work for all students in all subjects. It is important that we take the time to ensure that this is done thoroughly and that the process is manageable for students and teachers. As soon as we have a clear plan in place, we will communicate this to you and the students.

It is absolutely clear that the process allows students to still influence their grades as they will still have opportunities in all subjects to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding. As we have said throughout, this means that the most important thing that students can do at the moment is continue to work hard in lessons and to complete all the work that teachers ask them to do to the best of their ability.

The first decision that subject teams will need to make is what evidence they are going to use to base their judgements on. This will take some time as they are awaiting detailed information from exam boards on each qualification to be published. As soon as teachers know what evidence they are going to use, we will share this with students and parents.

We do understand what an anxious time this is for students. I think they can be reassured that the whole school system is determined to work together to ensure that they achieve the grades that reflect their ability and that they are not penalised because of the pandemic. I am confident that we can all work together in the coming weeks to ensure that students receive grades that are fair and enable them to progress on to the next stage of their education or employment.

### **Thank You**

Once again thank you for the work that you are doing in keeping your children engaged in remote education. The end is in sight! We are looking forward to seeing them all back in school in the very near future. If you think your child needs support as they return to school, then please do not hesitate to contact the relevant pastoral team and they will be happy to help.

Take care



Andrew George  
Head Teacher

When are students expected to wear a face covering?

- Students must wear a face covering on all public transport on their journey to and from school
- Students must wear a face covering at any time they are on the school site or buildings other than when they are eating or drinking
- In line with new government guidance, students must wear a face covering in all lessons except practical PE lessons. The government have committed to reviewing this after Easter
- Face coverings with inappropriate slogans or images are not allowed
- Students must not touch or interfere in any way with another student's face covering

Are some students exempt from wearing a face covering?

- The criteria has changed and exemptions from the Autumn Term will not be carried forward
- Some students may be exempt if they cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability.
- If this is the case, then parents must complete this [online form](#) before Wednesday 3rd March. Students who are exempt will be issued with a lanyard that they must wear throughout the day. If this form is not completed, then students will be expected to wear a face covering.

What will happen if students do not wear a face covering?

- Students who are not exempt and are not wearing a face covering in a lesson will be offered a replacement by the teacher. If they refuse to wear a face covering in that lesson they will be removed from the lesson. If a student does this regularly then further sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy will be applied.
- Staff will record behaviour points for students who are not wearing a face covering outside of lessons when they should be doing so. Sanctions will be put in place for repeat offenders.

Will adults also wear face coverings in classrooms?

- Teachers/support staff will wear a face covering in a lesson where they cannot maintain social distancing. This does mean that where teachers are 2m from the students at the front of the class they will not need to wear a face covering.

How can students ensure they are wearing a face covering safely?

- Safe wearing of face coverings requires the cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on; and safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use

- Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn, and the face covering should be replaced carefully. Students may consider bringing a spare face covering to wear if their face covering becomes damp during the day.
- Students must:
  - not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it
  - dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not recycling bin)
  - place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them