

4th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Half Term 2.

New Lockdown

The Prime Minister has announced that from the start of Thursday 5th November, the country will **go into lockdown** until at least 2nd December, with. Key aspects of the lockdown are:

- **All pupils will still come to school**
- Non-essential travel and other activities will cease
- The aim is to reduce the amount of infection so that the NHS is not overwhelmed and large numbers of people being seriously ill is avoided. Full details of the restrictions are laid out here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>.

We do not yet know exactly how long these restrictions will last or the details of school specific guidance from government. However, the government has made clear it is their priority to keep schools open. As the guidance states: “It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to **support their wellbeing** and education and help working parents. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school.” This is because schools are operating in a safe way and because the harm caused by missing school is judged to be more than the risks of Covid-19. Our job as a school is to ensure coming to school is as safe as possible and make sure that pupils’ long term wellbeing is supported by coming to school every day.

We would like to update you on key aspects of our approach to managing this situation:

Remote Learning Contingency Planning

As a school we have detailed plans for circumstances where pupils need to be at home. This plan is outlined in detail on our website: <https://kingsolomonacademy.org/remote-learning>. It includes details of how learning would continue in different situations that could happen in the weeks ahead.

Secondary Early Finish – Wednesday 11th

Secondary pupils will be dismissed at 2pm on Wednesday 11th November. They will be on a staggered dismissal to ensure that there is still distancing, with KS4 pupils being dismissed a little before 2pm and KS3 pupils at 2pm. This time will be used for staff training and is to ensure we are as prepared as possible to deliver online learning to secondary pupils should they need to learn from home as described in our remote learning contingency planning document. Primary pupils will finish at the usual time.

Review of protocols and the school’s risk assessment

We have a thorough risk assessment which details the control measures we have in place. These measures are detailed here: <https://kingsolomonacademy.org/parents/keeping-everyone-safe-when-we-return-school-september-2020>

Having reviewed the way the school has operated in Half Term 1, taking on feedback from our parents and staff and bearing in mind the increasing risks of infection, we will be revising some logistical aspects of how the school works as follows:

- KSA will institute a formal **ventilation plan** from Monday 9th November. This follows guidance available internationally about how to achieve the benefits of ventilation without reducing the temperature in the school to an unreasonable level as the weather becomes colder. As such we would ask all parents to ensure their pupils have warm clothes from Monday 9th November:
 - A white vest, white t shirt, or white long sleeved top under their shirt

- Warm or double socks
- Black leggings under skirts, dresses or trousers

Pupils will have the ventilation plan explained to them over this week and the purpose. The plan will involve periodic refreshing of the air in classrooms. During this short period the classroom temperature will be lower and then return to normal. Pupils cannot wear coats indoors, so please dress them warmly under their school uniform.

- At the Older Years Site, with the move to the new 6th form centre, fewer pupils will arrive through the Bell Street entrance, meaning that the start times can be slightly less staggered as communicated to these pupils and parents. This has also allowed more spacing of the pupils generally, both in the 6th Form Centre and Upper School, which pupils will benefit from.
- Under the new restrictions, parents should only be making essential journeys to school and should maintain distancing at all times. For parents with Secondary pupils, this means we will ask parents to either allow their secondary pupil to return home without them, or if they are waiting, to do so far away from the school gate on the opposite side of the road, and distanced from one another.
- Lettings from outside organisations will cease during the lockdown period

Notifying us of symptoms and test results

Thank you to all our parents who have done such a great job of communicating with us if someone in their household has Covid-19 symptoms, and any test result. By telling us about these and sticking by pre-emptive isolation periods, you are keeping everyone in the community safe. If someone in your household is ill with Covid Symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste or smell) please stay at home and let us know quickly by filling in the form on school website or emailing parents@kingsolomonacademy.org.

Staff positive case – no action required

We were informed on Tuesday 3rd November by one of our lunchtime supervision staff who works at Younger Years Site that they received a positive test. They developed symptoms on Friday 30th October, and took a test on Monday 2nd November. Their infectious period was therefore during half term and they had no contact with any member of the school community during this period and so there is no action to be taken.

Future travel plans

In September, we had many families miss school because they were forced to quarantine for 2 weeks on return to the UK. This meant they missed 10 days of school, and disrupted their own and other pupils learning. Please note that these restrictions on arrival quarantine continue to operate. Please review this information here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors> Please do not book travel in the Christmas or Easter holiday periods if you would be quarantining from school. For those of you planning any summer travel next summer, please be cautious about the possible need for quarantine. We are expecting to start school on Monday 6th September 2021, so plans should be made to ensure pupils are back on this date. Formal term dates for next year will be published in the next couple of months.

Thank you to everyone for their support and resilience as we support each other through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Max Haimendorf
Principal