

Thursday 13th May 2021

Dear Parents,

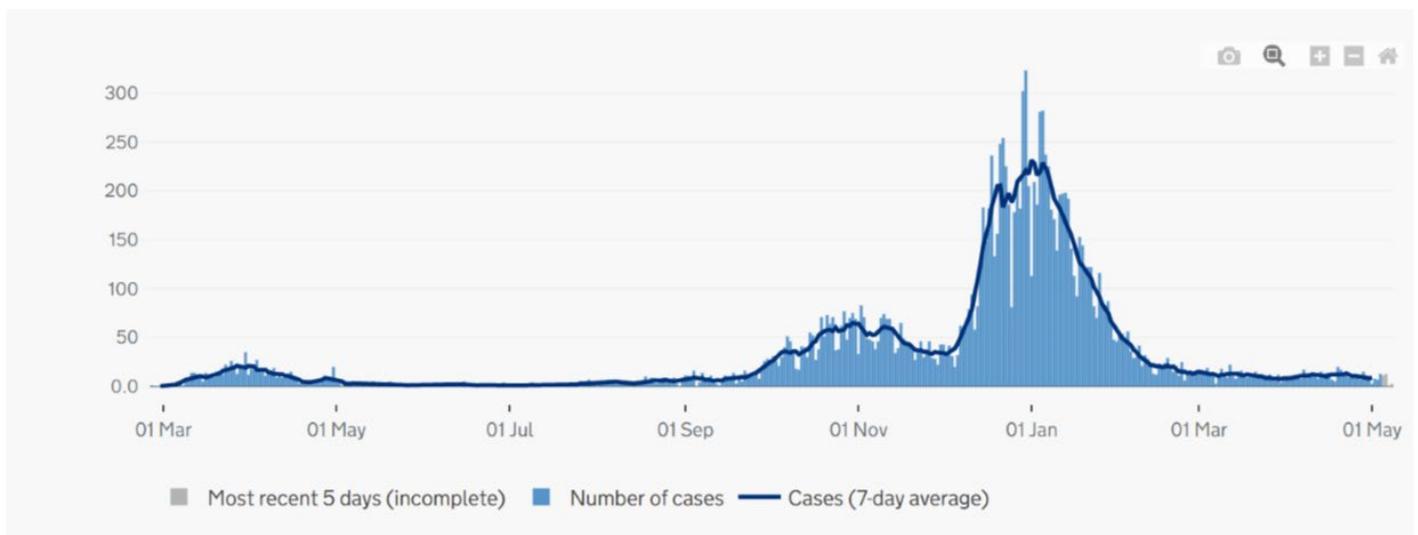
Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim families. We hope this has been a happy and positive Eid for our community.

I am writing to all parents so that we can update you about the plans for adapting our Covid-19 measures following on from recent government announcements. On Monday 10th May, the Prime Minister announced that the country would move to Stage 3 of the roadmap on Monday. This means a significant change to the restrictions in place. From Monday 17th May, new rules apply, including:

- Up to six people and two households may meet indoors. Overnight stays are allowed.
- Up to 30 people may meet outdoors
- Pubs, bars and restaurants, and indoor entertainment (such as museums and cinemas) can open indoors
- Social distancing and close physical contact with friends and family a matter of personal judgment

This is good news for our country. It has been made possible because the vaccines available are highly effective, and have been taken up by the vast majority of people offered them. Infection rates are now very low compared to the 1st and 2nd waves.

Infections in Westminster:



The government has issued the following [guidance](#) to schools. We have been considering this guidance carefully. We want to continue to balance preventing the risk of infection whilst ensuring that the experience of being in schools is excellent for our pupils. Now is the right time to make some changes to our approach to reflect the context.

Existing approach which will be continued

Firstly, I would like to briefly outline aspects of our Covid-19 risk control measures which will remain the same, recognising that we want to continue to keep everyone safe:

1. Minimising contact between people by:

- bubbling' pupils and staff;

- staggering arrival and dismissal, play and lunchtimes

2. Following a rigorous handwashing schedule for everyone

3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by using face coverings where appropriate and promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach;

4. Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often throughout the day

5. Following up on all absences very rigorously to ensure symptomatic pupils remain at home and get tested asap so we can inform anyone else who needs to, to self-isolate as well.

6. Engaging fully in the governments asymptomatic testing regime with staff and pupils testing twice a week

7. Ensure high levels of ventilation by having multiple windows open throughout the day in each classroom

Key changes to our approach from 17th May

As a result of the wider changes to restrictions in society, and taking into account our context and government guidance, the following changes are planned from Monday 17th May.

Movement around site	We will use more specialist spaces (e.g. Art, Music, other rooms) and lunch halls, where appropriate. Pupils will spend less time in their class bubble room.
Interaction between class bubbles	We will continue to operate in class bubbles in years N-11, and year group bubbles in Years 12 and 13. In Years 5 to 11, where there is purpose to the effective delivery of education, we will introduce some additional occasions when individuals mix with other members of their year group outside their class bubble (e.g. after school clubs). Where possible, groups of pupils from one class bubble will maintain 2m distance from other groups.
Face Coverings	The government’s guidance on masks has changed and their recommendation is that masks are no longer required in Secondary schools. However, are discussion with staff, parents and pupils, we will be taking a cautious, graduated approach. Pupils in Year 7 -11 will no longer wear masks when in classrooms, but we will still expect pupils and staff to wear masks in shared spaces, for example in our narrow corridors, so that we can minimise the risk of infection outside of the bubble. We are making the change to face coverings in classrooms because wearing them impedes learning and because the pupils are with each other all day, meaning face coverings have limited impact on risk of transmission. 6 th form students may wear masks in classrooms if they wish to, recognising that they interact with a lot more different pupils for shorter periods over the day.

	Staff in primary and secondary will wear masks in shared spaces (e.g. corridors) and (if they are not part of the class bubble in primary) when they need to be closer to pupils, although they will continue to maintain distance when appropriate.
Meetings	Staff will hold socially-distanced and ventilated meetings with each other and parents when necessary, although telephone and video call will continue to be used where appropriate.
Visitors	We will be careful to only have a limited number, but will increase the number of visitors from May 17th. Visitors include prospective staff and those coming to contribute to the education of pupils. Where visitors do enter the school they will continue to have rigorous Covid-19 safety briefing and checks, and, wherever appropriate, wear face coverings.
Asymptomatic testing	We will continue to ensure that all staff are testing twice a week, and continue to encourage secondary pupils to test twice a week also.
Ventilation	With the warmer weather we will increase the amount of time when all (or a minimum of two) windows will be open continuously.
Offsite Trips	We will have some offsite trips in the last half term of the year (June and July). These will be day trips, usually in walking distance, and will be risk assessed carefully to ensure they are run safely. We look forward to pupils enjoying activities out of school again.

Schools continue to try to balance providing an excellent educational experience with protecting our community from the risk of infection. We hope that you continue to feel that we are striking the right balance. We are grateful for your support in making the school an enjoyable and safe place for our pupils.

Information about travelling abroad

From Monday 17 May, travelling abroad for leisure will be allowed again. However, the government has drawn up a traffic light system – red, amber, green list of places, indicating quarantine rules for travelling to different areas.

I would encourage you to consider the risks before planning travel and read the latest government guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england>. Travel abroad represents a higher risk of infection.

The government will be updating the list every three weeks, and countries can be added and removed from the lists with very little notice. In terms of half term, the start of the new half term on **Monday 7th June**. In terms of September, all pupils should be ready to start on **Monday 6th September**. So do please consider your trip details carefully. Please note that quarantining must be accommodated within your trip.

Green countries: These have the least rules, and you will not have to quarantine unless your post-arrival rest is positive, and you must self-isolate if NHS Test & Trace informs you that you travelled to England with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

You must:

- [complete a passenger locator form](#)
- [take a COVID-19 test](#)
- [book and pay for a day 2 COVID-19 test](#)

Red and amber destinations: With the virus still spreading in many parts of the globe, the government is **advising against travelling to amber and red countries** for leisure. The 10-day hotel quarantine arrangements will continue for those allowed to return from 'red' countries and quarantine at home alongside testing for those returning from 'amber' destinations. We strongly urge families to consider carefully the risks of travelling to these countries in terms of exposing themselves and others to infection.

If you have any questions or feedback about our plans, please email parents@kingsolomonacademy.org

Yours sincerely,

Max Haimendorf
Principal