

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

Dear Secondary parents,

We are delighted to be welcoming you and your children back to the new school year! We feel optimistic about the year ahead: being able to be in school every day, teaching your children and helping everyone feel safe, well and happy.

Please see below for some important updates.

1. **Start of term:**

A reminder that year groups start as follows:

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Start back in school in lessons</b>
Year 7	Monday 6th September
Year 8	Wednesday 8th September
Year 9	Wednesday 8th September
Year 10	Tuesday 7th September
Year 11	Wednesday 8th September
Year 12	Monday 6th September
Year 13	Tuesday 7th September

2. **Covid management**

We are cautiously returning to a more 'normal' school life. Whilst the government has decided we no longer need to teach children in bubbles or use face masks and one way systems, we will continue to uphold the highest possible standards of handwashing and hygiene and will continue to invest in additional cleaning throughout the day. We will continue to ventilate the school as much as possible and be mindful when organising large events. Staff will continue to LFT test twice a week.

**If your child exhibits any of the three symptoms of covid (new or continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of smell or taste) you must:**

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- keep your child at home
- you must book a PCR test [online here](#) for as soon as possible.
- If a PCR test is positive then they must isolate for ten days BUT school aged siblings and double vaccinated adults DO NOT have to isolate (unless they have symptoms).
- Siblings should therefore still come to school unless they are also showing symptoms.
- If the PCR test is negative, the child should come back to school as soon as they are well enough.

## **Communication about Covid in the school**

The school no longer has responsibility for identifying contacts of positive cases. This means the following:

- If your child has symptoms you as the parent are responsible for helping NHS Track and Trace to identify any close contacts. If NHS Track and Trace decide that it is appropriate they may ask the school for assistance in providing contacts, but we cannot provide contact information to parents directly to you.
- The school will not be informing parents or pupils when a pupil or teacher in the same class as their child is positive, this will be done by NHS Track and Trace if they believe your child is a contact.
- If a pupil is identified as a contact by NHS Track and Trace they will be advised to get a PCR test. They should not be absent from school to take this test and should not isolate while they await taking the test or the result. PCR tests of contacts should be arranged as any other medical appointment, i.e. outside of school hour wherever possible.

### **3. Arriving in the mornings**

The gates on both Bell Street (Years 7 to 11) and Lisson Street (6<sup>th</sup> Form) open at 8.10am and close at 8.20am. Pupils who are late will serve a late detention in Activity time in Middle School or after school Years 10-11. Please support your child to be on time to school.

### **4. End of the day**

School returns to ending at 4.00pm in year 7-11 on Tuesdays to Fridays. It remains 3.00pm on a Monday and every day for 6<sup>th</sup> form. Detentions and homework catch up will run from 4.00-4.30pm (extending to 5pm if necessary).

### **5. Magic Breakfast**

We are now partnering with Magic Breakfast to provide free buttered bagels to all children every morning. If your child would like one they can attend school between 7.45am and 8.05am, entering through the main entrance on Penfold Street. You can read more about the Magic Breakfast organisation on their [website](#).

### **6. Class timetables**

Children will all come home with a printed weekly timetable on their first day. Pupils must bring their PE kit and get changed in school, rather than come in their PE kit on PE days.

7. **Paying for school meals**

All pupils who are not eligible for Free School Meals must pay for their lunches. This is done online through parentpay, If your child is new you will be sent your [parentpay](#) login. If you do not have your log in, please email [parents@kingsolomonacademy.org](mailto:parents@kingsolomonacademy.org). The cost of lunches remains unchanged at £2.50 per day including a break time snack.

8. **Getting To Know You events**

We will write to parents with details of these events next week.

9. **Coffee morning schedule**

We look forward to being able to run coffee morning in person again soon but for the time being it will remain a virtual event. You can see the schedule [here](#). For new parents or those who haven't attended before, do come along! It's a lovely informal space to chat to some other parents and find out about something we think you might be interested in! It's a varied programme: in all-through curriculum weeks, you'll hear from the leaders of that subject; other sessions are led by pastoral leaders or partners we work with like our Educational Psychiatrist or our mental health workers. We look forward to seeing you – and hopefully it won't be long until we can go back to meeting in person!

10. **Thank you!**

If you've got any questions at all about the start of the new school year please do pop by or call the office or email [parents@kingsolomonacademy.org](mailto:parents@kingsolomonacademy.org) and we will direct your query on to the right person.

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

Yours faithfully,

Max Haimendorf  
**Principal**

