

BEN/PGD

25 September 2020

Dear parents / carers

An update on the September reopening of the school

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil or pupil is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors.

School reopening matters	<p><i>We are pleased to report that the school is operating as normal. There is a full timetable provision with all subjects being studied. We have a split lunch and food is now offered at both breaks. Students are required to enter and exit separate entrances and remain in their bubbles at social times.</i></p> <p><i>An enhanced reading provision is beginning to be established and enhanced pastoral care sessions daily. Year 11 students are having catchup sessions. This started on Monday 21 September for Year 11 students and we are delighted that 100 students per evening are attending but encourage that more do attend these sessions. Details of this have been published.</i></p>
Attendance	<p><i>The vast majority of students have returned to school and non-COVID related absence is lower than at the same time last year. We are pleased that very few term time holidays have been taken- a trend we hope will continue throughout the year. However, the combined impact of families isolating due to not being able to receive a COVID test and taking time off for cold-like symptoms has had an impact on overall attendance.</i></p> <p><i>Despite a small spate of bugs, we are reporting 91% attendance this week and aim to raise this as these issues clear.</i></p> <p><i>Guidance on what to do in the event of illness or a suspected COVID case has been republished onto our website under the re-opening section. Please see the link at the end of this letter to help you.</i></p> <p><i>Post 16 attendance is also high with very few cases of students requiring to self-isolate.</i></p>

<p>Coverage of the curriculum</p>	<p><i>There has been no reduction in the curriculum in terms of subjects being taught and little impact on students and their classroom experiences. Students have adapted well to the changes in terms of classroom layouts and new routines and we are pleased to see students enjoying being back in school.</i></p> <p><i>Rather than assessments, tests or grading, we are focusing on students' return to school, their approach to their lessons, attitudes and settling back into school routines. Therefore, we will be sending our half-termly Attitude to Learning reports home via email in October as normal. Teachers are recovering topics from last school year and addressing any gaps or misconceptions on a class by class basis, ensuring all students are as prepared as possible in order to progress with their learning journey.</i></p> <p><i>If your child is in Year 10, 11, 12, 13 then we are focusing on the teaching, learning and students understanding of their GCSE/BTEC and A Level courses.</i></p>
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<p>Operational matters Food Pastoral care Open evenings</p>	<p><i>We are ahead of schedule in terms of providing a full food provision. Your son/daughter can now purchase food at break one and two. A pre-book system and app is about to be launched affording allowing them to pre-book their food in advance. There are dedicated eating and social areas for each year bubble.</i></p> <p><i>Reading and pastoral care play a significant part of our additional curriculum provision alongside dedicated PSHE lessons that include relationship sex education as required by the government.</i></p> <p><i>Parents' evening (subject or year based) alongside open evening will not take place as normal face-to-face meetings. Instead we will be offering schedules video calls using the same booking system previously used. Open evenings for pst16 and new intake will be virtual using our website.</i></p>
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<p>Remote learning in the future</p>	<p><i>Brief outline of plans for remote learning in case of full school closures, cohort isolation, individual isolation</i></p> <p><i>Work will still be set through connect as this will enable parents and students to access the work that has been set. Microsoft Teams will now start to enrich and support the delivery of a continuation of learning. Students will receive a combination of set work. This will include hand-written uploaded pieces alongside some computer-based studies.</i></p> <p><i>Provision and strategies are in place to ensure where possible students are not disadvantaged where IT limitations exist.</i></p> <p><i>There has been significant investment in staff training to enable effective home learning delivery to minimise the disruption to students learning and progress.</i></p>
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Mental health and wellbeing	<p><i>The school have invested in Edukit, a web-based wellbeing service. Edukit is a fantastic, accessible current method for schools and students which supports their wellbeing anytime, anywhere.</i></p> <p><i>Very soon, there will be an app available for students. Any areas where a student scores 'low' offers instant access to relevant resources to support student. This includes out of hours support. Wellbeing mentor support can be accessed by a referral from your Head of Year. We have a team of dedicated wellbeing staff, Student Support Officers, Corridor Monitors and Behaviour team. Finally, we have a dedicated safeguarding Team in operation.</i></p>
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Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely. A more detailed explanation of many of the re-opening arrangements can be found by visiting our website:

<https://www.kscs.org.uk/reopening-info>

Yours sincerely



Bryan Erwin
Principal

