

21 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are looking forward to a purposeful week in school with students going about their learning in a positive and cooperative manner.

The news has been dominated by the national picture of rising cases and a testing system which has been unable to keep up with demand. For a small number of you the testing issue has proved problematic and I would like to thank you for your understanding, vigilance and support. Some updates:

Covid-19 related absence

Please continue to report any Covid-19 related absence either by phoning or using attendance@klbschool.org.uk. In the event of a positive Covid-19 test result, it is important you contact us straight away, by email if it is out of school hours, so we can act as quickly as possible.

Enhanced Health & Safety measures

Students have responded extremely well to the measures we have put in place. Now with the changing national picture, we have taken the decision to enhance some of our measures particularly around face coverings. Most of the movements around school, during break and lunch and between lessons are outside, or with only very short distances in corridors to get to a classroom. In these areas, face coverings will remain optional. There are some parts of the school however where students, from tomorrow, will be required to wear face coverings:

K block; the top floors of Renishaw and Humanities; the Canteen; sixth form communal areas

Please ensure, as previously stated, that all students come to school with a face covering; disposable masks are available for purchase from any of the food outlets.

Contingency plans

With the increase in Covid-19 cases nationally, the difficulty in getting tests and the rise in students needing to self-isolate while waiting for test results (either their own or those of household members), we have put plans in place for different possible scenarios.

- Starting from Thursday this week, any student in Years 7-11 self-isolating and capable of studying will receive, by email, two weeks' work for all their subjects within 24 hours of reporting an absence. For sixth formers, Miss Khan will liaise with teachers to ensure work is emailed.
- In the event of a whole year group or more needing to self-isolate, we aim to provide a programme of 'synchronous learning'. We believe that having returned to school and got back into good routines, students should maintain the rhythm of learning. Students will be required to follow their usual timetable from home with a combination of live interaction with their teachers, recorded content, and work set on Show My Homework. We will send details of this learning to parents and students should the need arise. The content will need to be accessed by a phone, PC or laptop and any live content will be recorded for those who are unable to access it in real time. All links to live lessons and other resources will be placed on Show My Homework as previously. Thanks to a government scheme and the generosity of 'KLB Friends' (our PTA) we have been able to supply a good number of families with laptops/chromebooks to use for home learning. Please get in touch if you know you will struggle to access the internet if required.

Uniform

Three weeks into the school term, we would like to reiterate our expectations of how students should present themselves. Over the next two weeks, we will be ensuring that all students have the correct uniform, and are wearing it appropriately. Non-polishable trainers, short skirts, unsuitable jewellery, and white socks are aspects that some need to rectify. If anyone is struggling to afford new uniform, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Head of Year in the first instance.

Year 6 information

Some of you will have children who are making decisions about secondary school. Sadly, we have had to cancel our open evenings and mornings for Covid-19 related reasons. I have attached a letter to Year 6 students about the resources available to them, and of course parents, including videos and virtual tours, and ways to ask us questions using the joiningklb@klbschool.org.uk email address.

Break and lunch

Students will still be required to be outside for break and lunch times. We have now put up four marquees to provide further shelter for when the rain inevitably arrives. As it does get wetter and colder, a coat will be increasingly important.

Once again, thank you for your help and support in these testing times. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need any sort of help.

Yours faithfully



Tim Rand
Headteacher