



11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

FIRST WEEK BACK - UPDATE

First and foremost, I just want to say a massive thank you to all our students. They have been amazing, understanding and so adaptable. This in all my years of headship, has been the strangest and unfortunately it is still changing.

As we have now completed our first full week, there are a number of points I would like to raise and I sincerely hope that I address some issues that have come to light during this first week.

Unwell Students

You will now know that we have had one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Y10. As I mentioned yesterday the plans we currently have in place such as staggered times and year group bubbles was for this eventuality. We received guidance from Public Health England late yesterday afternoon and have acted upon that.

The College is taking every precaution of keeping the whole school community safe and we continue to send home any student who is unwell with any of the symptoms of COVID-19.

Therefore, to clarify, if your child displays any of the three main symptoms set out below they and any siblings must be isolated either until they have a test result or for 14 days.

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the recent onset of any of the following:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

There is also a wider set of symptoms that may be related to COVID 19, which are set out below. **If your child displays any of these symptoms please contact NHS 111 for advice before sending them to school.**

Signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in children can include:

- Fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia (muscle pain)
- Nasal congestion or rhinorrhoea
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Poor appetite or poor feeding

In line with the Government's Guidance for full opening of schools, it does require judgement to be made about minimising risks from COVID-19 by maximising control measures. An important requirement of that Government Guidance is that

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anyone who is ill should stay at home. Our Trust, The Kemnal Academies Trust (TKAT) encourages the College to work with parents to keep the school and wider community safe. In order to ensure that this is the case TKAT has published the wider clinical symptoms presented by children who have tested positive for COVID-19. These wider symptoms have not been published directly by Government, but have been published by internationally renowned medical journals and publications.

I am well aware that we are going into "cold/flu season" but I am sure you can appreciate we cannot take the risk. We have a number of parents call to say they believe its only a "cold" etc but we ask parents to obtain clinical advice from NHS 111 in order to make the right choice for your child.

As we progress through this term I am well aware there could be more changes and we will of course at all times ensure that we are following the latest guidelines. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and please know that everything we do is in your child's best interest.

Buses

We have received a number of complaints from parents with regard to their child's journey to and from school. I am aware that, not only our students, but all school children across the borough are having to deal with being refused or not allowed to board buses. Our staff are out on "gate duty" every afternoon to ensure that students board buses. Please know that my PA is speaking and complaining daily to TfL and I have even taken it further by writing to our local MP.

Over the summer and in preparation for our students to return we were given specific bus information relating to our school and therefore put in place staggered times to accommodate. Unfortunately, this week, that changed and we had to alter our dismissal times to ensure that our students are able board designated school buses as their safety is paramount.

We have speaking daily to Bromley Local Authority as well as Transport for London to convey our concerns and they have assured us that they are monitoring the situation. Please be reassured that we are listening to our students (and parents) and this in turn is being reported to TfL. It is extremely frustrating for us to see many of our students so upset as they arrive late for school.

For your information and to clarify again the finishing times of the school day at the moment are as follows: -
(different to the information in the planners as they were printed over the summer)

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
2.55pm	3.00pm	3.05pm	3.10pm	3.15pm

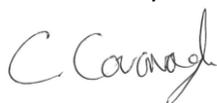
Y7 Lunches

We are very aware that the transition for Y7's from primary to secondary is hard. Students have to get to know the layout of the school, get to know their peers and teachers as well as having to learn that secondary school life is at a much faster pace. Every year it seems that the Canteen is an issue and it normally takes 3 to 4 weeks for Y7's to settle in.

Normally all year groups have a 30-minute lunch break but due to COVID-19 and to ensure we have time to sanitise the canteen areas in between year groups this was reduced to 20 minutes. You will understand that at the moment we have to ensure that areas are cleaned before use by different year groups but upon listening to parents and students' feedback we quickly realised that some of our Y7's were just not able to manage with 20 minutes. To address this, we "re-jigged" the timetable to allow Y7's to go to lunch first with an extra 15 minutes to enable them to have the time to eat their lunch. Since Wednesday we believe this new adjustment is working.

All that remains is for me to reiterate how well everyone has adapted to this new way of life and wish that you all continue to keep your family safe and well.

Yours faithfully



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EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

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