



4 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

RETURN TO SCHOOL

I take this opportunity in wishing you a very happy New Year and very much hope that you and your family managed to enjoy the Christmas break and festivities.

Face Coverings

The Department for Education (DfE) have announced that students are to wear face coverings in lessons, as well as communal areas of the school, from our return to school until at least 26 January 2022. I ask that you support us in encouraging your child to bring and wear their face covering whilst in school and preferably a reusable one to support the environment.

Testing

Please see below dates of when your child (if consent has been given) will be tested and when they should return to school. Please be reminded that if consent has not been given, your child is to return when their whole year group is back in. Students are not required to wear uniform when they come in for testing.

Date	Tuesday 4 Jan	Wednesday 5 Jan	Thursday 6 Jan	Friday 7 Jan	Monday 10 Jan
Year 7	Inset	At home	Testing	In school	In school
Year 8	Inset	At home	At home	Testing	In school
Year 9	Inset	At home	At home	Testing	In school
Year 10	Inset	At home	Testing	In school	In school
Year 11	Inset	Testing	In school	In school	In school

Year Group	Times and groups
Year 7	11.00 - 12.00 - 7CH and 7MC
	12.00 - 13.00 - 7GT and 7TA
	13.30 - 14.30 - 7BS and 7MM
Year 8	9.00 - 10.00 - 8AC and 8JA
	10.30 - 12.00 - 8NA, 8MO and 8BP
Year 9	12.30 - 13.30 - 9AMA and 9JEA
	13.30 - 15.00 - 9LU, 9VM and 9CME
Year 10	9.00 - 10.30 - All Year 10
Year 11	10.00 - 11.00 - 11JU and 11EC
	11.30 - 12.30 - 11MWA and 11FP

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We will continue to issue Lateral Flow Tests kits as they become available. All positive results must be reported to the school as well as to NHS.

Staffing

You will know that from before Christmas, the College managed staff absences by having no alternative but to close year groups on a rotation basis. Please be advised that this is always a last resort. At the time of writing, our staffing position looks manageable for the start of term and I remain hopeful that it will continue. Please know that I will always try and avoid causing any disruption to the learning of our students and I will do everything possible to keep the school fully operational but I always have to consider the health and safety of the College and our community.

Isolation

The DfE have advised that students and staff who need to isolate as a result of positive COVID test are required to isolate for the full 10 days. If your child tests positive, their self-isolation period includes the day their symptoms started (or the day they had the test, if they do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days.

We appreciate that this is different to the recently publicised 7-day isolation for the general public.

This is because the guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/> states that when self-isolation is stopped early (namely after 7 days), contact needs to be limited with people at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. As all students who are considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk and therefore at risk of serious illness are now required to be in school, you will understand that anyone returning after 7 days, when they could be still potentially infectious, may put these vulnerable students at risk.


As a College, we only want all of our students where they should be which is back in school and do appreciate that this is not the message you want to hear. Throughout the pandemic, we have followed and responded to the guidance of the DfE, Public Health England as well as the NHS and have always acted in the best interest of our College community, even when, as with this situation, there is ambiguity between the advice we are receiving and the media messages.

Current Positive Cases

Can I remind parents to notify the College if your child has/does test positive? If your child is currently isolating due to a positive result over the Christmas period, please can you let the Attendance Officer know via email attendance@kemnal-tkat.org with this information including the date they are due to return.

In the meantime, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Christian Cavanagh
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

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