



Monday 13th December 2021

Dear Parents,

This is the follow up letter as promised last week.

In this letter I will outline

- Changes to the Consequence and Praise system January 2021
- Mass Testing and staggered return
- CEO update

Changes to the Consequence and Praise system January 2021

There have been marked improvements in behaviour and attitudes by heightening supervision around school. We are more determined than ever to replicate these behavioural improvements inside the classroom and we have recently audited attitudes to learning and reviewed our behaviour for learning policy. Highly effective explicit teaching, retrieval tasks and opportunities for reading underpin the learning experience at Kenton School and for this to take place effectively we have very high expectations of in-class behaviour. The following outlines our expectations as of January 2022.

Staff use the Kenton Learning Cycle (KLC) to inform planning and deliver lessons that allows for a routine-based learning experience. We expect students to come to school prepared to learn and to engage with their learning positively and respectfully. Teachers have very high expectations of their students, which we think is captured with the acronyms SLANT and SHAPE:

Students must use **SLANT** whenever the teacher asks for it.

Students must use **SHAPE** whenever they ask or answer a question.

Students use SLANT in order to ensure they are focused on their learning:

S = Sit up straight: Students are taught to be attentive, focussed and respectful in lessons.

L = Listen carefully: Students give their teachers 100% undivided attention in lessons.

A = Ask & Answer: Students are taught to be active participants in lessons and to ask & answer questions.

N = Never interrupt: Students are taught to be patient and considerate.

T = Track the teacher: Students are taught to look where directed by their teacher.

Students use SHAPE in order to ensure they are confident and clear in all their interactions:

S = Sentences: Students are taught to reply in full sentences and "say it better".

H = Hands: Students are taught not to cover their faces when talking.

A = Articulate: Students are taught to speak clearly and to avoid mumbling.

P = Projection: Students are taught to project their voices so their responses are clearly audible.

E = Eyes; Students are taught to make confident and *appropriate* eye contact when conversing.

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We expect all members of our Kenton community to address each other politely and to show good manners, addressing staff as Sir or Miss, saying thank you, excuse me, please, smiling and replying when we greet each other.

Students who adhere to SLANT and SHAPE will be praised, those not meeting expectations will receive consequence points as per our regular behaviour policy, based on our Praise and Consequence system which we aim to use on a 5:1 positive ratio. Students not complying with SHAPE & SLANT will be given a consequence (negative point). C1, C2, C3 gives students three warning before a C4 means they are removed from the lesson to protect the learning of others.

As of January any pupil receiving a C4 removal from lessons having interrupted the lesson will be given a same day thirty minute departmental detention. This will be accompanied by a phone call home to discuss these issues and the impact on learning.

Should a pupil knowingly miss this detention or disrupt the detention there will be a further escalation the next day and a longer detention will be issued. We anticipate pupils will not reach this level of intervention, but if they should further sanctions will be issued including, if necessary, school suspensions. We sincerely hope pupils learn quickly that disruption to learning will not be tolerated and all pupils can learn in a calm and orderly environment.

The school will communicate these issues to the home initially through the subject teacher who issued the C4 and via the SIMS App. Please support us in eradicating any behaviours likely to impede learning by speaking to your child about this. We would encourage you to talk to your daughter/son about these in-class expectations and look forward to your support. Alignment of parental and school support for these expectations will help to create an even more effective environment for learning.

Mass Testing and staggered return

Return to school

Your child will return to school on the following day/time;

Child's name:

Day of Year group return:

Form group return time:

This may be a different time to other year/form groups as part of the staggered return to school.

All consent for previous C19 testing is still in place. If you are still to give consent this can be completed at <https://tinyurl.com/KentonTestingPermission>.

Your child should attend school using the Drayton Road entrance and meet their Form Tutor at the gate. They will be escorted through our C19 Testing Area in North Block. If your child has not consented to testing or has tested positive for C19 in the 28 days prior to return to school, our staff will move them to the waiting area and not through the test area.

Since I last wrote the Government has issued new guidance regarding facial coverings. We have been working with Newcastle Local Authority and The UK Health Security Agency to keep an eye on the

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local picture regarding Covid19 in Newcastle. Under current guidance, all adults and pupils must continue to wear facial coverings in all communal areas **inside** the building.

Although not mandatory, we encourage facial coverings to be worn in classrooms, however, we appreciate that some students with medical issues may feel more comfortable wearing a facial covering in the classroom. Can I ask that if your child has an exemption due to medical reasons for not being able to wear a facial covering you contact your child's Year Leader as soon as possible and we will look to accommodate any special requests. I need to insist that facial coverings are either the Kenton School uniform facial coverings or an alternative that is plain in colour. Scarfs, snoods, visors are not acceptable.

Other key points:

- Water fountains are currently not available and students must bring their own bottled water (we are reviewing the Risk Assessment and will continue to offer water refills and cups in the year group yard at lunchtime until we can move back to the dispensers)
- Parents and visitors cannot enter the school site without a prior appointment.
- We strongly encourage students to walk or cycle to school. **We would urge parents to use the school carpark as a drop off or pick up point before or after school and not the surrounding areas.**
- Current guidance stipulates that on public transport all students aged 11 and over must wear facial coverings for the journey except where an individual has exemptions for medical reasons.
- Please allow for additional time for students to access the site from 8.00am to access the handwash facilities before entering their year group yard.

CEO update

As from 1st January 2022, Ian Kershaw will be our new CEO. Ian, is widely respected for his work in education both locally and nationally. He has had several headships in both mainstream and special education, led an Education Action Zone and been a successful CEO of a large MAT. He also has an exemplary record as a school improvement specialist and supported many schools, LAs and MATs over the years.

Ian Lane will be leaving us on 31st December, we thank him for his support in providing the best possible learning opportunities and experiences for our students.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Holmes-Carne
Principal

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