



Friday March 19th 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

I wanted to write to all parents and carers at the end of this unusual return to school which also included the administration of three Lateral Flow tests (LFT) for the vast majority of students. The students have been an absolute credit to the school and to you as parents. They participated in the tests with maturity and minimum fuss. I really do appreciate the work done at home in alleviating concerns they may have had about the LFT. Our rules on facial coverings has not changed since September 2020. Again, the students have responded positively and have worn their facial covering or exemption lanyard with minimum fuss. My thanks for your support on this matter.

The focus of this letter is to help you understand what we are doing as a school to ensure the first few weeks of re-opening are as smooth as possible.

- We will share with you all the methods to communicate with the school to voice concerns you may have about your child's experience at school
- Outline our Teaching and Learning expectations in school and exam arrangements for Year 11 and Post 16
- Explain how we are supporting your child with their mental health
- Remind parents and carers about our expectations on daily routines and attendance

Methods of communicating with us to share concerns you may have about your child's experience at school

There have been many challenges during the pandemic. I personally feel that in a strange way this pandemic has strengthened our ability (as parents and teachers) to work together to improve the school experience for our children. Communication has been vastly improved in both directions between home and school. Parents have been fantastic at reviewing plans and feeding back readily on any aspect or concerns they have to ensure our community is safe and the learning experience a positive one. It is my sincere hope that this continues.

Your views, advice and our response to any concerns will remain key to me moving the school forward.

Methods to feedback general concerns or to contact me:

Facebook: @kentonschoolnewcastle
Email: administration@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk
Telephone: 0191 2142200
Parents forum dates: 27/05/21 and 15/07/21 at 6pm.

We have included a sheet with this letter of ways to contact the school for learning, welfare or general enquiries.

Teaching and Learning expectation in school and exams for Y11 and Post 16

Now that students are back in school we are supporting their learning with clear routines in the class room. Retrieval activities start every lesson and at the moment they will help teachers establish what aspects of lockdown learning were mastered and what needs revisiting at some point. Vocabulary development remains a huge priority for the school and as such, we are excited to have launched Drop

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Everything And Read (DEAR) in form time. DEAR will be a shared reading experience across each year group with each form reading a carefully selected book at the same pace. We hope that this will be enjoyable for students but are aware too of the volume of research which shows that students who read often achieve better outcomes at the end of their time in school.

Those of you with children in Years 11 and 13 will have received emails last week from Mr Robinson or Mr Ord detailing the process by which students will be awarded grades in their qualifications this year. The important message is that students should be in school to take on board the guidance of their teachers and then revising at home in order to prepare for short-tests and final assessments.

How we are supporting your child with their mental health

Please be assured we recognise and acknowledge the huge issues this pandemic has created with mental health. Support in school comes in the shape of two Mental Health Advocates who have a specific focus on signposting pupils towards those agencies we have access to. We have also partnered with Aiding Minds which is a company who works with schools to audit mental health issues across a school population and then supports schools in ensuring pupils receive the help they need, should they need it. We also have four colleagues on our staff who are recently qualified as Mental Health First Aiders, colleagues who are trained to spot the tell-tale signs pupils often display with regards their mental health. What we would say to parents though is please make sure your child knows there are staff in school who can and will support them should they find they are struggling to cope. An obvious first port of call would be our wonderful form tutors and our excellent Year Leaders. But we will continue to exhaust every avenue in identifying and signposting support for this issue.

Routines and attendance

In these first few days returning to school we have worked hard to make sure the pupils slot back into those routines that proved so important in the first term in providing a settled and calm environment in which everyone can learn. Most notably we expect pupils to:

- Arrive at school by 8.20 and bring their own face covering
- Remain silent in the queues in the school yards and enter the school wearing their face covering
- Move sensibly around the corridors wearing face coverings in communal areas
- Behave well in lessons and respect the learning of others
- Try their very hardest in every lesson and make sure they take every opportunity to plug any gaps in their knowledge
- Complete homework with gusto and enthusiasm
- Access the KLZ should they be required to self-isolate
- Refrain from wearing any jewellery or clothing which is against school policy
- Understand this current situation is difficult for every member of the Kenton School Community, staff, parents and pupils alike and respect the hygiene rules in school

Please also note we expect high levels of attendance again unless a pupil is genuinely sick or needs to self-isolate. Please be aware the Local Authority is once again supporting Fixed Penalty Notices for non-attendance which the school will pursue in those instances where we feel a pupil could attend school but is choosing not to without good reason.

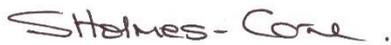
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Thank you for both your continued support and kind messages, they are appreciated. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me about any concerns, at any time or indeed to celebrate any good news regarding Kenton School.

It truly is fantastic to have your children back here with us at Kenton School..

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Holmes-Carne
Principal

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