

Dear Parents and Carers

Full opening of School in September 2020

This letter should be read alongside the letter that I sent to [parents and carers on the 11th July](#). There is also a video for parents to watch and discuss with students. The purpose of this letter is to update you on our plans for a return to full time attendance for all students from September. All of our plans are underpinned by the Government guidance issued to schools which establishes these key principles:

- The risks to students of not attending school now outweigh the very low-risk they face from coronavirus
- Health and safety of all staff and students, including good hand and respiratory hygiene, is paramount
- The school must strive to offer a full, ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum that will ensure that all students are given every opportunity to catch up on any learning missed.
- Social distancing is not necessary for students within year groups but adults are advised to remain socially distant from each other and from students, where possible.
- For students, minimising social mixing between year groups, whilst offering a full and specialist curriculum is the essence of the Government guidance. In the guidance, year groups are referred to as 'groups' and these 'groups' will be kept as separate as possible during the school day. At Kimberley, each year group will be its own "group", with the Sixth Form in its entirety being a year group for this purpose.

The DfE guidance is for each individual school to implement in a manner which best suits their circumstances

Which students can attend school? The government guidance is clear that "the majority of pupils will be able to return to school". Parents should be aware that:

1. Students who have symptoms or a recent positive test result themselves or who have had close contact with someone who has coronavirus, **must not attend** school and must follow government advice to self-isolate
2. Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August. This means that **even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school**, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#). Some students no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment)
3. If any student currently has a Health Care Plan, then we will contact parents before September to work with them to review that plan
4. Students who are extremely clinically vulnerable must take extra care to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene. The above advice on shielding sets out who is clinically extremely vulnerable. If you think that your child is extremely clinically vulnerable then you must contact us as soon as possible through office@kimberleyschool.co.uk. In your email please set out that you think your child is extremely clinically vulnerable and we will arrange for a member of staff to contact you and to work with you to ensure that your child takes extra care to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene when they return to school

An overview of measures that we are taking:

At Kimberley the main aim of the Autumn Term will be to get students back on track to achieving or surpassing their academic and social potential *by supporting them to quickly and safely return to the normality, routines and structure of school and learning*. We are fortunate in that our site is large enough to enable students to move safely around the school site in each year group. Therefore, in order to achieve our main aim and to keep pupils and staff safe, we intend to implement the following:

1. Movement around the site and between lessons will be enabled by a strict one-way system inside and between buildings. This one-way system will ensure that face to face contact is minimised across the site; and that students do not mix with students from other year groups

- Students will be given badges to wear on their ties so it is easy for staff and students to easily identify which year group they are in
- Adults in the school will take oversight of their bases. For teachers, this means they can ensure that classrooms are sanitised between every lesson. An enhanced cleaning service throughout the day will service classrooms
- Windows will be open in classrooms and corridors across the school in order to ensure good ventilation. Non-fire doors will be wedged open to reduce contact with frequently touched surfaces
- There will be a hand sanitiser station in every classroom. Students will sanitise their hands under teacher supervision as they enter. Wipes will be available for students to cleanse their own workspace for their own reassurance.
- Tables will be arranged so that students sit in rows (side by side) facing the front to reduce face to face proximity with others
- Good respiratory hygiene will be enforced through a “catch it- kill it – bin it” approach, tissues and lidded bins will be available in every classroom.
- There will be enhanced cleaning across the site of frequently touched surfaces and toilets
- An appendix to the behaviour policy will set out hygiene and social distancing expectations of students; as well as how they should move between lessons to avoid mixing with students from other year groups.
- Strict measures will be in place to ensure that the school follows the NHS Test and Trace procedures and that we work with the local health protection team to manage confirmed cases of coronavirus

Changes to the school day:

There will be slight alterations to the school day to allow for a staggered break and lunchtime so that year groups cannot mix at these times:

	Period 1 70 mins 8.50 - 10.00 Includes Reg & notices	Period 2 75 mins 10.05 - 11.20 Includes 15 min break	Period 3 60 minutes 11.25 - 12.25	Period 4 90 minutes 12.30 - 2.00 Includes 30 min lunch 12.30 - 1.00 1.00 - 1.30 1.30 - 2.00	Period 5 60 minutes 2.05 - 3.05
7		break		Lunch	53
8		break		Lunch	55
9			break	Lunch	57
10		break		Lunch	60
11			break	Lunch	60
12 & 13			break	Lunch	60

Supervised Break and Lunch Areas

Canteen & ball courts	Hall 1 / Hall 2 / outside area	VI Form Centre
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- Students’ return to school is phased during the first week to enable us to help them understand their responsibilities relating to hygiene, social distancing and adhering to the one-way system

Tuesday September 1 st .	INSET Day
Wednesday September 2 nd	Year 7 return to school (full day) Year 12 return to school (afternoon)
Thursday September 3 rd	Year 7 and 12 are in all day Year 8, 10 and Year 13 return to school (full day)
Friday September 4 th	Year 7, 8, 12, 10 and 13 are in school all day Year 11 and Year 9 return to school (full day)

- For the first week Period 1 will be spent in tutor groups to enable the tutor to support their students’ return to school. Following this period 1 will be a normal timetabled lessons, with whole school messages delivered by video or in year group assemblies.
- Year groups will have separate, supervised areas for break and lunch; and these will be sanitised before they are used by a different year group
- On arrival at the school site students must go directly to their first classroom. All morning staff meetings have been cancelled so that teachers can supervise their areas as students arrive
- A slight staggering of the end of the school day will mean that students can leave the school site without mixing with other year groups

School Transport and Drop off and Pick up Times

1. Parents are reminded that students should follow the governments' [safer travel guidance](#) and should cycle or walk wherever this is possible.
2. Dedicated school bus transport (The Awwsworth and Mornington Buses) will continue to run. Students must wear facemasks on this transport but, in line with government guidance, students **do not have to maintain social distancing from each other**. We will encourage to sit with students from the same year group where this is possible.
3. Students using commercial transport must wear facemasks and **must maintain social distancing from each other and other passengers**. Families should be aware that, in this context, the commercial bus providers will be letting less students on than usual. We have contacted them to see if there is any intention to increase the frequency of buses but they have indicated that this is unlikely at this stage. We will contact you if anything changes.
4. Current government advice is that students and staff are not able to wear a facemask whilst they are in school.
5. **Parents and carers should not drop off and pick up students anywhere on or near the school site** in the morning or after school as this will compromise our ability to keep students and staff safe at these very busy times. **Please arrange drop off and pick up points elsewhere in Kimberley.**
6. Parents and carers should encourage students to avoid mixing with children from other year groups on their journey to and from school.
7. As is the case now, parents will not be able to enter the school site during the day. All communication with staff should be via email or phone.

Personal Responsibility

I am confident that we have a robust plan in place to deliver a full and ambitious curriculum whilst taking all the necessary steps to keep the risk of infection as low as possible. However, everyone must play their part, adults and students alike. We have put into place a whole raft of measures that help to mitigate against the spread of Covid-19 which will be clearly explained to students on returning in September. We believe that we have a role in equipping students with the confidence to take sensible social distancing and hygiene measures to protect themselves inside and outside of school, however, should a student decide not to respect these, this will be treated as a very serious disciplinary matter.

Before your child returns to school, please may I ask you to impress upon them the importance of the following:

- Hand and respiratory hygiene including hand sanitisation upon entry to every classroom.
- Limit face to face conversations and contact as much as possible when moving round site by strictly following the one-way system
- Reduce social mixing by staying in year groups and avoiding contact with students from another year group, especially upon arrival and exit from school.

Additionally, it would be most helpful to school if your child could be equipped with their own small bottle of hand sanitiser and their own tissues for use during the school day as part of your child's own commitment to their personal hygiene.

We will share more information with you and your child before September to help you prepare for school. For ease of reference, all of the relevant information will be collated on this [page of the school website](#). As ever, the main focus of all our work should be to continue to support students in accessing their remote education until 3:05pm on the 24th July. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Andrew George
Head Teacher