



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We are all very pleased to know that we will be welcoming students back on site from Monday. It has been great to see Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 on site on Thursday and Friday this week for Lateral Flow Tests. Whilst on site the exceptional team at the school processed 654 Lateral Flow Tests over the two days with no positive cases.

It is important that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 arrive for their first flow test at the time allocated as they do not have the size of site to hold them while they wait to be tested. This week we also received our first batch of home testing kits and we look forward to distributing these to the students once they have had 3 tests here in school. This is to help identify asymptomatic students, supporting both the school and home environments.

I apologise if I caused some confusion in a previous email regarding face masks. Where students do not have a medical exemption from wearing a face mask, we expect them to wear them at all times in the school, apart from at lunchtime if they are outside or when they are involved in physical taught activities, such as in PE. We are aware of the students who are exempt for known reasons. Students who choose not to wear a face covering will continue to be educated but not necessarily alongside their peers.

The wearing of face coverings in lessons will then be reviewed at Easter to align with any changes in national guidance.

Mental Health and Well Being

The pastoral teams are delighted to be able to welcome students back to school from Monday 8 March. This second period of government-imposed restrictions has been particularly challenging for some students and their families. We are very much aware that students will need plenty of support as they return to the classroom and a range of extra-curricular activities.

In addition to the regular support of tutors and Heads of Year we have also secured the services of an additional school counsellor. Students may self-refer if they wish to speak with a counsellor, but if as a parent or carer you feel your son would benefit from this opportunity then please contact Mrs Bond.

We have asked Dr Aric Sigman, an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, to deliver a series of assemblies to all students on how they can support their mental health and wellbeing. Dr Sigman has worked extensively with the Department of Health, European Parliament and the Royal College of Paediatrics on teenage health. He is also a contributing author to the new Parliamentary Group report on Mental Health in childhood.

Dr Sigman has also recorded 2 presentations for parents on practical and achievable steps that parents can take to strengthen children's mental health and resilience and reduce the risk of mental health problems developing. To view these presentations please ask your son to login to his school account and access SharePoint. The presentations can be viewed at:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

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Lateral Flow Device (LFD)

To reassure all students there is a step-by-step video outlining the arrangements for testing <https://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/lateralflow>. For your son to be flow tested we must have consent. Please complete the consent paperwork on the school's website: [The King's School Grantham - SARS-COV-2 Lateral Flow Tests](#).

Lateral Flow Testing remains voluntary for students and staff in all schools in England. If a student, or their parent, does not wish to take a test, then they should return to school with the rest of their year group as outlined below. However, we would like to encourage all students to take the test. Please do contact us if you are concerned about this. The registration process requires students to enter a parent's email address and mobile number, can students arrive with this information ready to allow testing to keep to the timetable. The following is an outline of when students will receive their first test. Individual timings for testing have already been sent to you by email.

Initial Flow Test:

Year Group	Date of first test
Year 7	The morning of Wednesday 10 March. They should arrive at their designated time in PE kit (they will stay in PE kit all day). After their test they will go directly to the sports field having waited 30 minutes for their result after their test. Year 7 will follow their normal timetable from period 4 onwards.
Year 8	The afternoon of Thursday 11 March. They should arrive at their designated time in PE kit (they will stay in PE kit all day). After their test they will go directly to the sports field having waited 30 minutes for their result after their test. Year 8 will follow their normal timetable from Friday 12 March.
Year 9	The afternoon of Wednesday 10 March. They should arrive at their designated time in PE kit (they will stay in PE kit all day). After their test they will go directly to the sports field having waited 30 minutes for their result after their test. Year 9 will follow their normal timetable from Thursday 11 March.
Year 10	Return to School in uniform and to their normal timetable on Tuesday 09 March.
Year 11	Return to School in uniform and to their normal timetable on Monday 08 March.
Year 12	Return to School in uniform and to their normal timetable on Monday 08 March.
Year 13	Return to School in uniform and to their normal timetable on Monday 08 March.

What will happen if a student is tested positive for COVID-19

If a student receives a positive result from a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) they will be issued with instructions to take a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. This would be completed at home and posted for testing. All students and adults who have been in close contact with the student will have to self-isolate. The guidance from the DfE is clear that both adults and students must isolate for 10 days, even if they themselves have been vaccinated or have a negative test result.

We have implemented several systems to support a safe return to school. Many of these are outlined below with further information available via the website and detailed in the updated risk assessment.



Prevention

Students, staff and other adults must not come into school if:

- they have one or more of the coronavirus symptoms
- a member of their household including their support bubble has coronavirus symptoms
- they are required to quarantine after recently visiting countries outside the common travel area
- they have had a positive test result and have not completed their period of self-isolation.

Coronavirus symptoms include:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- 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

Anyone who receives a positive test or displays symptoms, along with household members including siblings, must not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have symptoms but have a positive test (LFD or PCR test)

Any student who begins to display symptoms whilst in school will be isolated. Parents or carers will be contacted and asked to collect their son and any siblings. Students will not be allowed to travel home on public transport.

Measures to help with control

Face coverings will need to be worn in all indoor areas of the school, in line with the national guidance. From the 8 March face coverings are to be worn in all lessons except for Physical Education when exercising. The wearing of face coverings in lessons will then be reviewed at Easter to align with any changes in national guidance.

Please can we ask that students bring two face coverings with them each day as this will then allow students to change their face covering if it gets damp or wet. Students should also bring a clear sealable plastic bag with them (sandwich type) to store their face covering in when eating at lunchtime or when they have PE.

The King's School face coverings will be available to purchase by emailing finance@kings.lincs.sch.uk and making an online donation of at least £2 per mask. These face coverings will also be on sale in school.

Students will continue to be encouraged to complete regular handwashing with either soap or hand sanitiser including:

- when they arrive at school
- when they return from breaks
- when they change rooms
- before and after eating
- when changing or removing their face covering

Catch it, bin it and kill it will continue to be emphasised with all students asked to adhere to this approach and bring tissues with them if required.

Additional cleaning throughout the day will continue on the school site to ensure high use areas including door handles, light switches and toilets are cleaned frequently.

Year group bubbles will continue to operate to minimise the contact across different year groups and maintaining distances between individuals where possible.



Each classroom has an area specifically marked out for members of staff to teach safely within. This will continue to be adhered to.

Staggered finishing times at the end of the school day and staggered lunches will continue. Start times will continue as they are and the school building will be open from 8:15am to avoid all students arriving and entering the building in a short period of time.

All classrooms will be well-ventilated and appropriate windows and doors will be opened to allow a comfortable teaching environment to be maintained.

The school will embrace the asymptomatic testing programme and liaise closely with the Lincolnshire Health Protection Team should a student or staff member test positive for coronavirus to ensure swift action is taken. We will continue to identify any close contacts should a student or staff member receive a positive test result.

A level and GCSE Centre Assessed Grades (CAG)

The guidance for Centre Assessed Grades was released on Thursday 25 February. Thank you to all students and parents who responded to the national consultation. I have now released a short presentation explaining the actions we will be taking at King's: <https://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/cagyear11and13>.

More information will be shared with students over the coming weeks.

Please note that the exam results days have changed and are now:

- A level results 10 August 2021
- GCSE results 12 August 2021

Year 13 Mock Examinations

The Year 13 Mocks will start the week beginning 15 March 2021. The order of the mock examinations remains the same as the original schedule. The schedule was emailed to all students by the Examinations Officer.

Year 11 and 13 Special Considerations

Under normal circumstances if a student suffers an adverse situation during or leading up to the examinations period the school applies for a special consideration. If this is upheld by the examination board then an adjustment is made to their grade.

As there is no external examination, we would like to know of any students who meet the criteria that follows. We do believe that we are already aware of the vast majority of these, however, as this is a formal process, I ask that you inform us if you wish the school to apply a similar process. You can inform us of the request by emailing admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk; please make the subject 'Special Consideration' by Friday 30 April 2021.

The following is taken from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidance on special consideration [The use of the term examination will be used to represent our assessment period]:

5% This is the maximum allowance and will be reserved for the most exceptional cases, such as:

- terminal illness of the candidate;
- terminal illness of a parent/carer;
- death of a member of the immediate family within two months of the examination;
- very serious and disruptive crisis/incident at or near the time of the examination.

4% Very serious problems such as:

- life-threatening illness of candidate or member of immediate family;



- major surgery at or near the time of the examination;
- severe disease;
- very recent death of member of extended family;
- severe or permanent bodily injury occurring at the time of the examination;
- serious crisis/incident at the time of the examination.

N.B. 'Very recent' is defined as within one month of the examination(s) taking place.

3% A more common category (more cases will fall into this category) including:

- recent traumatic experience such as death of a close friend or distant relative;
- recent illness of a more serious nature;
- flare-up of a severe congenital/medical condition or a psychological condition;
- broken limbs;
- organ disease;
- physical assault trauma before an examination;
- recent crisis/incident;
- witnessing a distressing event on the day of the examination involved.

N.B. 'Recent' is defined as four months prior to the examination(s) taking place.

2% The most common category of allowance - the majority of cases will fall within this category:

- illness at the time of the examination;
- broken limb on the mend;
- concussion;
- effects of pregnancy (not pregnancy per se);
- extreme distress on the day of an examination (not simply exam related stress);

1% Reserved for more minor problems:

- stress or anxiety for which medication has been prescribed;
- minor upset arising from administrative problems.

Where the request for special consideration fails to meet the criteria it will be rejected.

Online Safety Training

Year 7 students have now received login details to access a series of courses on online safety, healthy relationships, alcohol awareness, anti-social behaviour and fire safety. The courses have been produced by Lincolnshire County Council through their Safer Communities Service and would normally have been delivered in school earlier this term. If your son has any issues accessing the courses please email SSP@lincolnshire.gov.uk who will be able to help.

Public Transport

The following is a message from the Lincolnshire County Council Transport Team:

"The education transport network will operate in full from 8 March 2021 for all eligible children. This should only be used where absolutely necessary to reduce interactions between pupils. Please encourage parents to transport their children to school or college wherever possible."

The Council has updated its information page for parents and carers. Please visit <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport/covid-19-information-school-transport> for more information.



Please encourage pupils to maintain social distancing, wear a face covering and follow all other infection prevention control measures wherever possible on education transport.”

Changes to all students’ usernames

As part of our continued improvement in our Information Technology infrastructure we are having to change all student usernames. Passwords will not change.

It will be changed from the format forename.familyname to 16.f.familyname. Please can students watch out for the email confirming that the change is in process. [The 16. represents the year the year group joined the school, Y11 – 16; Y12 – 15 and Y13 – 14].

We anticipate making the next change on Wednesday 10 March for Year 11, 12 and 13 students although this does rely on Microsoft's availability. This process is already complete for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Free School Meals

Free School Meal vouchers will be provided through Wonde for eligible students from 8 March up to the date when their year group resumes face to face teaching. If any families are experiencing significant hardship, we are registered as a referral agency with the Grantham Food Bank for families that live locally. Please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk if you would like further information.

Catering

Catering will be available for all Year Groups resuming face to face teaching from 8 March.

Monday 8 March: Y12 and Y13 – The 6th Form Centre, Y11 The Dining Room 12.30-13.30.

Tuesday 9 March: Y12 and Y13 – The 6th Form Centre, Y11 The Dining Room 12.30-13.00, Y10 The Dining Room 13.00-13.30.

Wednesday 10 March: Y11 The Dining Room 12.30-13.00, Y10 The Dining Room 13.00-13.30. Year 7 The Lower Foyer Pod 12.30-13.30

The schedule below will resume from Thursday 11 March noting that the Field Tuk Tuk will be in the Quad until 15 March.

	Dining Room	Lower Foyer	Field Tuk Tuk
Monday	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 8 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 7	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 9 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 10	Year 11
Tuesday	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 11 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 8	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 7 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 9	Year 10
Wednesday	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 7 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 11	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 10 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 8	Year 9
Thursday	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 10 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 9	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 11 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 7	Year 8
Friday	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 10 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 9	12:30pm-1:00pm Year 8 1:00pm-1:30pm Year 11	Year 7

The Quad Tuk Tuk is available all lunch time to all years, provided the student is wearing a face mask.



Please ensure the catering cards are brought into school and please top-up lunch accounts where this is needed. There is a cash loader in school, but catering cards are required to use this facility. Contactless payments such as debit cards, pre-paid credit cards, Apple Pay and Google Pay are accepted at all catering locations. The previous menu will resume with Chartwells committed to ensuring that there are a variety of options complying with the Food School Standards at each outlet.

Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers

Provision in school will continue for the Vulnerable Children and Critical Workers' group until their return to full time education for that year group.

Only one parent needs to be a Critical Worker to access this facility. If you would like to add your son to the Critical Workers provision could you please inform the school by email to admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk. Please state the days required.

Wi-Fi Vouchers

We have several additional Wi-Fi vouchers available on a first come first served basis that will connect free of charge to a BT Wi-Fi Hotspot until the end of July 2021. If you think this would be useful and you are in range of a Hotspot, please email admin@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Pickett'.

SIMON PICKETT
Head Master