

6 December 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

At the end of last term, I wrote to you outlining the changes we would be making at Kings Academy following the Department for Education and Public Health England's decision that all schools in Somerset should follow additional measures to help combat Covid-19. As we observe the national picture of rising infections, you may be aware that all schools in England have now been brought in-line with those in the Southwest. We have continued to review procedures to ensure students and staff remain as safe as possible and will continue to do so for the final two weeks of term.

Face Masks

All staff and students are required to wear face masks in communal and indoor areas. Whilst we continue to provide spare masks, we encourage all students to bring their own into school. If your child uses school/public transport, please remind them to always wear their face mask. We have contacted Somerset School Transport to request they help ensure all students comply with these regulations. If your child is exempt from wearing a face mask, please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments have been fully reviewed and updated and all staff are regularly briefed regarding safety precautions. Cleaning routines have been increased and hand sanitiser is available at key points in school as well as in every classroom.

Weekly Lateral Flow Tests

The Department of Education continues to recommend testing twice weekly, three to four days apart. We would, therefore, ask students to continue to complete Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly. Additional Lateral Flow Tests can be collected from the school office.

Lateral Flow Testing in January

The Department for Education has informed us that all students will need to complete a Lateral Flow Test, in school, upon their return to school in January. We are in the process of planning this mass testing and will update you in due course of plans for the start of Term three.

Year 11 Pre-Public Exams

Year 11 Pre-Public Exams are now underway, and all students have received an exam briefing.

We have made the decision to put the following precautions in place during the exams to ensure the safety of all our students and staff. These include:

- PPEs have been spread across two main venues, allowing for reduced numbers in each space
- Face masks must be worn when entering the assessment hall and removed only once seated
- Students to sanitise their hands both on entry and exit to the venue

We wish all our students taking examinations the very best of luck. A reminder that PPE results will be published to parents in January alongside their child's individual written subject report.

Outcome of Consultation on Contingency for Exams 2022

Given the outcome of the Department for Education and Ofqual's consultation earlier this month regarding the national contingency plan in the unlikely event of exam cancellation, it has been stated Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) would be given in place of exam results. These TAGs would be evidenced based, as in 2021. Knowing that PPEs provide students with clear targets and improvements to expedite progress there will, therefore, be a further assessment series in March 2022 to help Year 11 students prepare for their exams and provide further evidence. Full details of this series of assessments will be communicated in the New Year.

As we approach the Christmas break, we will continue to consult with Public Health England and review our procedures regularly. The safety and wellbeing of all our students, their families and our staff remain at the centre of all our decisions.

Once again, may I take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



David Wiltshire
Headteacher