



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL

Ysgol Brenin Harri'r VIII

Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Lewis BA (Hons) MA Ed
Head of School: Mr M Stockham

Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 6EP
Tel: 01873 735373 Email: info@khs.schools.edu.org.uk

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Dear students, parents and guardians,

Can we firstly thank all our students for the way they have returned to school prior to Easter. The engagement in their learning has been exemplary as has their adherence to our safe routines and protective measures. The challenge of wearing a face covering in the building and in classrooms has been met and something we shall all continue to get used to. We are extremely proud of our student body, they are a credit to their families and our school community.

The most recent Welsh Government Operational Guidance for schools and settings outlines that all students are to return to school on **Monday 12th April**. Our student, parent and guardian handbook 'Forward to a Successful Future' includes information on our revised safe routines and protective measures. A copy of the booklet can be found [here](#).

To further improve our communication with all stakeholders we have redesigned our website. Our intention is that key information can be found by students, parents, guardians and the local community easily. Please take a look using this link <https://www.kinghenryviiiischool.co.uk/>

Blended learning

As we return to full schooling we are undertaking another survey with regard to our blended learning offer. Students and staff shall undertake theirs in school however we would appreciate if all parents and guardians could find time to complete the survey using the following <https://bit.ly/3d6FXeT>. Your feedback will inform our planning for the future.

Uniform

Students in years 7 to 10 are expected to return after the Easter break in full school uniform. Students are to wear their school PE uniform on days when they have PE.

School Uniform	Unacceptable Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Black blazer with gold school logo (purchased from Reflex Embroidery).✓ Black blazer (purchased from other suppliers) with sew on school logo (purchased from Reflex Embroidery).✓ Optional black jumper with embroidered gold logo.✓ Black tie with two thin gold stripes.✓ White shirt (short or long sleeves).✓ Black tailored, formal trousers✓ Black box pleated skirts.✓ Black tailored shorts.✓ Plain black leather or leather look traditional shoes or plain black traditional boots to the ankle.✓ Black socks or tights.✓ Belts, if worn, must be plain and black.✓ Coats are to be of a plain, dark colour. It is acceptable for coats to have reflective elements for safety when travelling to and from school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Hooded jumpers (hoodies) with or without a zip, denim or leather jackets are not acceptable outerwear.✓ Tight, clingy or tube type skirts are not acceptable.✓ Jeans, jeggings, chinos or leggings are not acceptable.✓ Trainers, plimsolls or 'Vans'-type shoes are not acceptable.✓ Facial piercings are not acceptable in school (please consider when a child may get a piercing if they wish to, for example if a piercing is to be done at the start of the summer holidays, it will be able removed for the school day when we return in September).✓ False nails are not acceptable.✓ Hair must be of a natural colour. Tram-lines/patterns cut into the hair are not permitted

Students in Year 11 and KS5 will need to meet our post-16 uniform requirements, which includes wearing a KHS lanyard when on school site to identify them as a student of our school.

A reminder that expectations around hair colour and jewellery has not changed. Facial piercings may encourage students to touch their face and increase the risk of injury. False nails are also not allowed.

Staggered start and finish to the school day

We will continue to group students into zones. Zone Leaders and support staff within these areas will also remain in place. Each zone will have their own timings, entry and exit points and students must use our one way system.

Year group	Zone	Student "Drop off and Pick up" areas	Student Entry point	Year group start time	Student Exit point	Year group finish time
7	100 level	Lower car park, below the MUGA	Main reception	8.40am	Music doors	2.50pm
8	600 level	Leisure Centre Car Park	Upper School (Middle doors)	8.40am	Upper School (Science doors)	2.50pm
9	500 level	Leisure Centre Car Park	Upper School (Middle doors)	8.50am	Upper School (Science doors)	3.00pm
10	300 level maths	Lower car park, below the MUGA	LS canteen	8.50am	English doors	3.00pm
11	300 level English	Lower car park, below the MUGA	LS canteen	8.40am	English Doors	2:50pm
12 & 13	701, 702, 610, 401, 403, 404, 104, 110,111, 606, 613, 322, RA	Leisure Centre Car Park	Assigned entrance	9.00am	Assigned Exit	3.00pm

Students using school or public transport will arrive at around 8.30am and depart their classroom at 2.55pm going directly to the bus bay. If the bus is late at the end of school students are to line up in a socially distanced manner;

- ✓ All other students are to adhere to the times above.
- ✓ Those students that live within walking distance should walk. This minimises the traffic on school site and in the surrounding neighbourhood. If essential, parents can drop their child off at the start of school day and pick up using the above mentioned areas only. The bus bays will be in use both before and after school for school transport.

Digital devices

Students in KS4 and KS5 should bring their own device to school if they have one. School equipment will be available for anyone that does not have a device however our current supply is limited. In the past year we have given out over 200 laptops to allow all students to access blended learning. We have ordered new IT equipment however current supply timelines are slow due to increased demand.

Laptops that have been loaned to students have been rebuilt to enable them to work outside of school. A second rebuild would be necessary for them to work on the school system. Therefore, students who have a school device at home should retain that device to complete blended learning and borrow a school device when in class.

The portal to purchase a school managed iPad has been open to Years 7 – 10 from Monday, 15th March until Tuesday, 6th April. A date for Years 7 – 9 to begin bringing their own devices to school will be communicated at a later date. The letter regarding our Digital Device for Every Child strategy can be found [here](#).

The video of the recent parental engagement meeting can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3cj0iOl>.

Catering and purchasing food

The school provides a variety of food for all students to purchase, using our cashless system called ParentPay. The menus for next term can be found on our school website. All students are of course welcome to bring a healthy packed lunch/snacks.

To reduce the risk of infection we shall not be using the fingerprint scanner. All students will continue to use their unique PIN code in the canteen to pay for food and drinks.

It is also important for students to be aware that they will not be able to access our water fountains, therefore if we do have warm weather, please ensure they bring enough water to last the day. **Carbonated and energy drinks are not permitted.** If there are any worries about accessing lunches, please contact the school.

Free School Meals

From Monday 12th April, the Local Authority will cease the direct payments for free school meals to families and students. All students eligible for a free meal will be able to access this in school.

Lateral Flow Testing

We have been very pleased with the number of students in KS4 and KS5 who are participating in Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing. LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. Students are not expected to continue with the LFD tests over the holiday period however should resume testing on Sunday 11th April. If you have not yet arranged for your child to take part but would like this to begin, please use the following parental permission link: <https://bit.ly/3btdNv8>

Although we are all looking forward to some down time over Easter we cannot wait to see the whole school return in April. The work we undertake in school has to be complemented by the work across our school and local community to adhere to the national Covid-19 guidelines. I know our school community will work together to maintain the current low infection rates in the area. We want our students to return to school and remain in school this summer.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Yours faithfully,

Elsbeth Lewis
Executive Headteacher

Mark Stockham
Head of school

