



## King Henry VIII School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Lewis  
Head of School: Mr M Stockham

4 January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Start of the spring term arrangements and school operations January 2022

We trust you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and your family are safe and well. We are delighted to inform you that our expectation is that **all students are to return to school on Friday 7 January 2022**. We are looking forward to seeing all students. On Friday 7 January 2022 we shall start the day with a with a revision of our safe operations that all students must follow, a wellbeing check in, and then move straight back into learning and lessons.

As part of our planning days and in line with the most recent Welsh Government guidance on Alert Level 2 and school operations we have revised our risk assessment and Local Infection Control Decision Framework (LICDF). A copy of both these documents can be found on our website [here](#). Following discussions with Monmouthshire County Council and the regional Infection of Management Team (IMT) we are returning to school at **very high** risk level.

Our school's priority is to minimise disruption to our students' education and maintain face to face learning in the classroom in a safe way for everyone. Key protective measures are as follows:

- ✓ All students and staff, unless exempt, are to wear face coverings in all areas inside the building where physical distancing cannot be maintained. We would ask for your support that your child arrives with a three-layer face covering. These face coverings should also be used on public transport.
- ✓ All students and staff are to continue with regular Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing three times a week using LFDs on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before returning to school** and to then continue testing regularly three times a week there after. It is important the LFD tests are undertaken in the mornings from now on.
- ✓ Re-introduction of year groups as contact groups:
  - All students on arrival at school must go directly to their year (contact group) designated zone. Students will then be advised by staff when to enter the school building through their year group entrance.
  - At break and lunch year groups are to use their designated zone and canteen.
  - Separation of year groups within the canteen areas.
- ✓ A rigorous one-way system within the building to reduce close interactions.
- ✓ Adherence to seating plans and forward-facing desks in all classrooms.
- ✓ Regular handwashing and respiratory etiquette (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it).
- ✓ Adequate ventilation and use of CO<sup>2</sup> monitors
- ✓ Maintaining appropriate levels of cleaning in line with other communicable diseases
- ✓ Assemblies are to be held virtually
- ✓ Limited visitors to site.

The fundamental principle remains that the most effective way to prevent transmission of COVID- 19 within our school community is to stop it being brought into school. Students and staff should not attend school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- ✓ a high temperature,
- ✓ a continuous cough and/or a loss or change of taste or smell.

If a student or a member of staff becomes symptomatic they should get a PCR test as soon as possible, and self-isolate until the outcome of the test. If a student or member of staff test positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate and not attend school.

All staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 are to follow the Welsh Government guidance for self-isolation which is as follows:

- ✓ You can leave self-isolation after 7 full days (on day 8 of your self-isolation period). You should take a LFD test on day 6 of your self-isolation period and another LFD test 24 hours later. This is to check if you remain infectious and could pass COVID-19 on to others.
- ✓ If either of your LFD tests taken on day 6 or day 7 are positive, you should remain in self-isolation until 2 negative LFD tests or day 10 whichever is sooner.
- ✓ If you still have a high temperature after 7 days, even if the LFD test is negative you should continue to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal.
- ✓ You do not need to continuing self-isolation for more than 7 days if your LFD test is negative and you still have a cough or loss off sense of smell
- ✓ You should not take a LFD test before the sixth day of your self-isolation period because the risks of remaining infectious and the chances of passing it on to others before this period is significantly higher.

For staff and students who are identified as contacts of a positive case self-isolation arrangements are as follows:

- ✓ If fully vaccinated (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine) you are now asked to take LFD tests every day for 7 days. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'.
- ✓ It is recommended those undertaking Daily Contact Testing take their LFD test **before they arrive at school each day**. These individuals do not need to self-isolate for that day unless they have a positive LFD test or develop symptoms. In either of these cases, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.
- ✓ Unvaccinated staff and students identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case must isolate for 7 days.

As a school our aim is to maintain face to face schooling, however we know the new COVID-19 variant Omicron is now the dominant strain in Wales. There will be some disruption to education this term if we encounter high levels of student and/or staff absence. It is vital we have accurate contact details for all parents/guardians so we can communicate with you effectively. You can update your contact details by emailing the school directly. Please note any changes to our school operations will be shared via In Touch and our twitter feed KHS @KingHenrySchool. All published letters are also placed directly onto our [school website](#).

We hope this will not be the case however we are well prepared to move swiftly to remote learning if required. Those year groups undertaking summative assessments this summer will be prioritised and remain in school wherever possible. All students at home do need access to a suitable digital device, a mobile phone is not suitable. If your child requires a digital device please contact the school using the following email marked FAO Snr AHT R Davies.

Currently the Welsh Government expect the summer exam series 2022 to continue however all schools have been asked to prepare contingency assessment arrangements. These are in place at KHS and those year groups affected will receive detailed information regarding these on Friday 7 January.

The current situation regarding COVID-19 is very fast moving and therefore we shall continue to communicate with you regularly as and when changes occur. Can we thank you for your on-going support in what continue to be challenging times for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs E Lewis*  
Executive Headteacher

*Mr M Stockham*  
Head of School