



## Co-educational Academy of Advanced, Artistic and Academic Studies

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Re: 2<sup>nd</sup> Autumn Half-term Update

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), Carers(s),

As we approach the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Autumn half-term, we would like to once again thank parents and students for their ongoing support during the particular challenges posed by the COVID-19 national pandemic. We especially want to thank parents for all they have done to date, to encourage their children to actively engage in our new arrangements and approaches to the provision of education and for the warm words of support that continue to be received by the school.

Please be advised that the school continues to remain fully cognizant of the current national regulations for the safe provision of onsite education, including recent revisions arising from the reintroduction of national lockdown arrangements from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Parents who are interested reading this guidance can access the relevant documents [here](#). **Please note that the school will reopen for all students on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at the normal time.**

Whilst it is a national mandatory requirement that the vast majority of students will return to school at the start of the new half-term on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, we shall continue to work closely with families who for specific reasons feel that their child is unable to return; this includes the very small number of students who may have been recently instructed by the relevant authorities to shield at home as part of the current national lock-down. The parents of students in this situation are asked to contact Ms Klingler via [attendanceoffice@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:attendanceoffice@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk) as soon as possible. Please be reassured that we are committed to engaging in constructive dialogue to ensure that parents continue to have the confidence in the school to send their children back to on-site education with us as soon as possible.

### Key Arrangements in Place at School

I would ask parents to note the following arrangements that remain in place at the school to keep our community safe and to discuss them with their child/ren to ensure that they understand the actions they are required to take whilst on site.

Students are currently allocated to year-group ‘bubbles’ to minimise contact points throughout the school day. **It is essential that students remain in these allocated bubbles, including at lunchtimes.** Staggered start and end times for the school day remain in operation, with specific entry and exit points to the school site allocated to each year group. Please ensure your child understands when and how they must arrive to and leave the school site as follows:

#### 08.40am arrival time

- Year 7: Main Front Entrance
- Year 11: Back gate
- Year 12/13: New Sixth Form entrance

### **09.10am arrival time**

- Year 9: Back gate
- Year 8: Main Front Entrance
- Year 10: Front side entrance via Year 7 playground

Students who arrive late to school will be required to report to the **Premises Reception Office** at the front of the school. They will be registered and then escorted by staff to their year group bubble zonal area.

Whilst we understand particular challenges students might face in regards to travelling to and from school in the Autumn term, we shall be maintaining our usual high expectations with regards to student punctuality. **As such, we would ask that students allow additional time for travelling to school each day, including time to enable them to access their designated entry points to the school site.** Student punctuality to and from school will continue to be monitored throughout the term and action taken as required.

We will continue to encourage students to wash their hands regularly and promote the ‘Catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach for any sneezes or coughs. These expectations will be reinforced during tutor periods and throughout the remainder of the academic year. Enhanced signage and information posters remain in place across the entire school site for this purpose.

Whilst it is still not possible to enforce strict social distancing at all times, there remains a clearly articulated expectation that within bubbles, students & staff will maintain as much distance between each other as possible. As part of this approach, staff will usually seek to maintain a routine 2 metre distance from students at all times. Students should also seek to maintain this distance from each other, or should this not be possible, a 1 metre distance. **In addition, for students and staff, our strict ‘no touching’ policy will in operation at all times.**

Students must bring an appropriate (and preferably reuseable) face covering to school each day along with a plastic bag for secure and safe storage. **In line with new government regulations, students will continue to be expected to wear such coverings (unless officiaally exempt) when moving either within or outside of their bubbles** and will be permitted to wear face coverings within their year group bubbles should they wish to and where social distancing cannot be maintained. Please note that students who travel on public transport should have two face coverings in their possession; one for use on public transport and one for use at school. Low cost reuseable face coverings can be purchased from the school shop and disposable coverings can be supplied by the school on the rare occasions where a student may have forgotten to bring theirs to school.

**Students must adhere to the one-way movement systems that are in operation at the school at this time.** Full details of these arrangements have been shared with students and will be reiterated throughout the term.

Full school uniform must be worn by students at all times in line with the latest clinical evidence regarding minimal transmission rates from such items. To facilitate effective Health and Safety arrangements, students will continue to be permitted to attend school in their official Kingsdale PE kit on days when they have PE lessons on their timetable. **However, please note that this does not include hooded tops or other non-uniform items which may be confiscated if seen by members of staff.**

In line with current guidance, the school will continue to ensure that classrooms remain well ventilated where possible, including opening windows should this be deemed necessary. Accordingly, staff have discretion to allow students to wear their outdoor coats in class should this be deemed appropriate.

Students should bring with them the equipment that they will need for the school day but this should not be excessive. Please also note that students are not permitted to share items of personal equipment, e.g. pens, pencils etc., with each other. Students will continue to have access to resources for learning within the classroom and their allocated bubble. These will be cleaned and appropriate steps taking to minimise risk.

Lockers will begin to be issued to students from this half-term in line with our enhanced safety protocols. We expect this process to be completed in the next few weeks and further details will be issued separately.

Students should continue to bring with them to school their own personal water bottle each day which must not be shared with any other student. Water will be provided to students throughout the day as required.

All areas of the school will continue to receive more frequent, enhanced and specialist cleaning in line with our enhanced Risk Assessments. This will include regular deep cleaning of the site, as well as wiping down of areas and any specialist equipment at the end of sessions.

Student lunchtimes will continue to be staggered by year group bubble as previously outlined. In line with parental & student feedback, we are currently exploring options for slight changes in the timings of the school day to potentially increase time for student socialisation at lunchtime. Further details will be shared with parents in due course. Students continue to be strongly encouraged to bring in a packed lunch from home for their lunchtime. However, we are continuing to expand the process of offering hot meal options which commenced during the last half-term, which will be available for students eligible for free school meals and for those who would like to buy a school lunch. **Please note that students are not be permitted to leave designated areas during lunchtime to prevent mixing of year group bubbles.**

Students are encouraged wherever possible to walk or cycle to school and additional cycle racks have now been installed on site to cater for increased demand. Students who cycle to school must wear a helmet and appropriate 'high-viz' clothing. Bikes should also be equipped with working lights.

If students must use public transport, they are required by law (unless officially exempt) to wear a face covering during their journey which would need to be removed and placed in a sealable plastic bag or container when they arrive at school. **We would ask parents to ensure that their child understands the expectation to wear a face covering during any journey on public transport (unless officially exempt).** Students should use hand sanitiser after removing their face covering. An explanation as to how to safely apply and remove a face covering has been provided to students and will be reiterated throughout the term. Staff will continue to be on duty at the entrances to the school and in the local area at key times to supervise student arrivals and departures.

As part of the recent revision to the government's regulations for schools following the reimposition of a national lockdown, we are currently required to modify the arrangements for the provision of school-based extra-curricular activities before and after school. This includes the cancellation of sporting fixtures and the likely rescheduling or postponement of other activities. Please note that instrumental music lessons and activities will continue to be delivered on line throughout this half-term. Further details regarding required changes to our extra-curricular and sporting programme will be shared with parents and students separately as soon as possible, including via our website.

## **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19?**

**Students who are unwell, display symptoms of and/or test positive for COVID-19 regardless of whether they demonstrate symptoms must not attend school.** The school should be contacted as soon as possible via our dedicated email address [covidnotification@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:covidnotification@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk) Students must also not attend school in case where they have been instructed by NHS Track and Trace to self-isolate.

Symptoms include, but are not limited to, a high temperature, a recent loss of smell (anosmia) or a new continuous cough. Further information regarding COVID-19 symptoms can be accessed [here](#). **Affected students must isolate at home for 10 days from the start of their symptoms or receipt of a positive test.** All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Where symptoms develop at school, affected students will be isolated and their parents contacted for them to be collected. Parents of such students will be required to arrange for their child to have a COVID-19 test as soon as possible, ideally on the same day and must inform the school of the outcome once it has become available by contacting us via [covidnotification@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:covidnotification@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk)

**REMEMBER:** Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can also seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

The school will continue to work closely with the relevant agencies in regards to any confirmed cases of Covid-19 that may be identified at the school and communicate any developments with our stakeholder community as appropriate.

### **Blended Learning Arrangements (Online & On-site learning)**

We understand that for most children, being asked to self-isolate will be frustrating and potentially upsetting. Please be reassured that we will continue to ensure that students are enabled to access their education, including their individual lessons online, via Microsoft Teams. Students who are currently isolating at home should log in to their classes on Teams and complete the work that is set, having viewed the live lesson. It is expected that this will prevent students falling behind in their studies and allow them to continue to positively engage with the school.

We are aware that whilst this highly effective programme has been working well in most areas, should you or your child experience any difficulties with our remote access systems, please email [remotelarning@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:remotelarning@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk) and we shall be do our best to rectify any problematic issues.

Throughout the half-term, we shall continue to provide a highly effective Recovery Curriculum for all of our students, which is designed to enable them to catch-up with any missed learning and to recover progress affected by the national lockdown of schools between March and July 2020. Revised curriculum maps which detail planned learning for each subject, can be accessed from our website [here](#). In addition and as a part of this programme, we shall be continuing with our extensive online after school and Saturday provision and our individual and small group tutoring sessions, both of which will shortly be extended to other year groups. Further details will be issued shortly.

Finally, we understand that this uncertain period may once again cause understandable concern and worry for our students. Our pastoral teams continue to work closely with all of our students to reassure them and allow opportunities for them to express their feelings. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's tutor or Head of Learning should they have any concerns in this regard. Please click [here](#) to access our comprehensive Communication Directory.

We would like to thank parents for their continued support at what is a very challenging time for us all. Should you have any queries about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me via [covidnotification@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:covidnotification@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk) and I will be more than happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

*A Samuel*

Mr A Samuel  
Key Health and Safety Officer