



KINGSDALE 11-19 FOUNDATION SCHOOL
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 Headteacher: Mr S. H. Morrison



Co-educational Academy of Advanced, Artistic and Academic Studies

5th June 2020

Re: Partial and Staggered Re-opening of School for Students in Years 10 & 12 from w/b 15th June 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers,

I would like to extend my appreciation for the helpful, patient and responsible way parents and students have engaged with the school during a period of unparalleled educational uncertainty and health & safety concerns for all. I would also like to offer an apology for the occasional disjointed nature of communications from the school and lack of certainty over the past few months, much of which has been outside of our control.

We shall be taking exceptional steps with respect to Health & Safety measures on-site including the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students, movement and circulation, lunch provision, social distancing and accommodating the personal welfare and circumstances of individual students in a fair, responsible and well-considered manner.

It is clear, that on the basis of the evidence available, schools will not be returning to their normal modus operandi for the foreseeable future and certainly not in the Autumn term 2020. In fact, some students may be fortunate to receive any face to face provision during this period. Hence, we have taken this into account with respect to adopting an incremental approach to re-opening Kingsdale which can be expanded to incorporate one year group at a time.

Following the government's stated intention that Year 10 & 12 students may start to return to school **from 15th June 2020**, I am writing to inform you of our proposed plans to accommodate this objective and to ask you to complete the very short survey that you will find at the end of this letter. Once you have considered the information shared here, it is essential for our planning for a safe return to school for Year 10 & 12 students, that parents complete the online survey - the link for which can be found below.

We have prioritised the teaching of students in Years 10 & 12 for the difficult challenge ahead in preparing for whatever external exams they may face, if any, in Summer 2021.

You may wish to refer to the latest government guidance to schools which can be accessed via this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

We realise that this has been and continues to be a very unsettling time for us all but please be assured we are doing everything we can to make sure Kingsdale is ready to welcome a relatively small number of students back but not before we consider it sufficiently safe for our school to re-open to a wider cohort of students.

We are blessed with magnificent and spacious provision with approximately 100 teaching rooms available. We estimate that there will not be more than 100 students on site at any one time (in a school built to accommodate well over 2,000 children) and expect in reality for this to be closer to half of that number; **these same students will be in school for an entire week**, utilising a restricted number of selected ventilated rooms, to limit the scope for cross contamination over a larger pupil population. Online learning



will remain the main teaching mechanism for the remainder of the Summer term 2020 for well over 90% of students per week, many teaching groups particularly option groups **may have 4 or less students present** in class and most importantly our plans have been developed so that they can when required be extended to encompass other year groups in the Autumn term 2020 if and when necessary.

Please be informed that in preparing for the return of some of our students, we shall be going above and beyond current government guidelines in establishing a safe learning environment. As a result, at any one time, **less than 25% (1/4) of Year 10 & 12 students** will be in school and students will work in very small groups indeed with strict enforcement of social distancing protocols. Perhaps most significantly, we are proposing that our Year 10 & 12 cohorts return in a phased pattern, meaning that students will initially come in for a **one week** period only (**five consecutive days**) during the remainder of this Summer half-term. This will enable face to face sessions for all of their examinable subjects as well as the delivery of pastoral personalised sessions focused on student well-being and individualised support.

Students will be allocated their week of attendance separately, once we have established parental intentions and estimated numbers we expect to accept our invitation to return. When not on the school site, students in Years 10 & 12 will continue to receive online educational provision via our MS Teams and SMHW platforms which will mirror on-site lessons and remain the primary educational provision for the overwhelming number of students all of the time.

If your child is clinically 'extremely vulnerable' or living with someone who is in this category, they should not return to school immediately and should continue with their home learning whilst we construct a personalised programme of study. If your child is clinically vulnerable but not extremely vulnerable, you should follow the NHS medical advice in deciding whether they should return to school. Please contact Mr A. Samuel, Key Health and Safety Officer at the school via asl@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk should you require more guidance and advice in this regard.

Please be informed that our provision for vulnerable and key worker students will continue, as established throughout the preceding period, across all year groups, including those in Years 10 & 12 outside of their allotted week. These students will be taught in an isolated block away from other young people on-site and subject to adhering to our strict guidelines will be shielded from them.

Our proposed approach for Year 10 & 12 students

For those students who will start to return to Kingsdale, from next week, there will be adjusted & staggered start and end times to the school day. For entry and departure purposes, students will be allocated to one of two or three groups. These groups will be further subdivided into smaller groups of approximately 6-10 students in Year 10 and 3-5 students in Year 12 for on-site taught activities. Students will only normally be allowed to enter the school grounds within their allocated time slot which will normally be between **9 - 9.30am**. **This later start is so as to reduce the need for student travel during peak rush hour periods.** The school day will end for students between **2.45 & 3pm** and student release arrangements will also be staggered.

Students will be instructed not to congregate outside the school gates or in the local area or on their way to and from school. **Please be advised temperatures of students on arrival will be taken using an infrared 'no touch' thermometer and no student will be allowed on-site whose body temperature is too high** (i.e. at or above 37.5 Degrees Celsius).

What will the onsite teaching and learning look like?

When designing our provision map, we have carefully considered the needs of our students in Years 10 & 12 and note that at this time, it is the intention of the government that they sit their planned external examinations in the Summer of 2021. As a result, we are proposing that when on-site for their allocated week, we will offer lessons in all subjects for which a student is to be examined next year, which for Year 10 students will include core and option subjects. Each day whilst in attendance, students will receive lessons on a rotating basis, with morning and afternoon sessions being delivered by different faculties.

On-site days will be divided into two sessions which will run from **9.30 - 11.45am** and from **12.30 - 2.45pm**. Lunch will be delivered between 11.45am & 12.30pm to student classroom bases where **a free school packed lunch** will be provided for all students in attendance who wish to have one. We will endeavour to cater for all dietary requirements of which we are notified in advance.

Travel Arrangements

It is strongly advised that students walk or cycle to school or if necessary, are dropped off and picked up by car where this is feasible, as the Government has advised that public transport is to be restricted and avoided where at all possible. **Please be aware that at this time, Transport for London have suspended free travel for children on London buses.** Please be aware that the school is exploring introducing a limited 'social distancing' mini-bus service with priority use based on clinical need and parental demand. Further details will be issued separately in due course.

If your child absolutely must travel on public transport, s/he will be required to wear a facemask and you may wish to provide disposal gloves for travel use which can also be purchased from the school. These items would then have to be removed at the school gates and it will be the student's responsibility to hygienically store them away or dispose of them in one of our secure waste bins. Please remind your child to be mindful and to take all necessary precautions to reduce risk when travelling on public transport.

Social distancing

As part of our detailed Health & Safety planning, the school and the learning spaces within it have been structured to promote social/physical distancing and safety. Students will be instructed and inducted on revised procedures for movement around the school site, hand washing and using toilet facilities. They will further be advised on amendments to our behaviour policies to ensure strict adherence to our new more rigorous expectations. Please be informed that new one-way circulation systems will be in operation. Students who deliberately or persistently fail to abide with social distancing requirements and other measures intended to reduce the potential for the spread of COVID-19 will be prohibited from attending face to face sessions in school and will have to work from home.

Further specific information on these arrangements are due to be circulated to parents and students later this week.

Next steps

We are asking all Year 10 & 12 parents to please complete the following short online survey as quickly as possible. Please remember to include your child's first name, surname and tutor group. The deadline for the completion and submission of the survey is short as information is required quickly i.e. by **9am on Wednesday 10th June 2020**. The survey can be accessed via the link below:

[Kingsdale Parental Survey](#)

Once we have extracted and interrogated the data received from the survey responses, we shall be writing to families who have indicated their wish for their child to return to school with much more specific detail, including the week their child will be invited to attend, non-uniform expectations and equipment students will be required to bring with them. Please also do use our online questionnaire to share with us your thoughts and views on our proposals for a phased re-opening of the school.

We hope that the information in this letter is helpful in providing the reassurance needed that we are well placed, ready and able to address the complex challenges we face during these extraordinary times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S. H. Morrison
Headteacher