



KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mr J Christey

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Dear Parents/Carers

You may be aware that the government made an announcement later on yesterday about staggering pupils' return in secondary schools when we return in January 2021. As you can imagine, this came as a surprise to us in school, as I'm sure it did to you as well. There has also been some suggestion that schools may be in a position to deliver lateral testing over the week commencing 4th January 2021 and from that point onwards.

Therefore, following the guidance set out by the government, this is the plan for pupils to return after the Christmas break:

Years 11, 12 and 13 will start back to school on Monday 4th January 2021.

Years 7-10 will access remote learning using our usual platforms of Go4Schools and Google Classroom.

The government guidance also says that vulnerable pupils, children of critical workers, and children with an EHCP should also be given the opportunity to attend school for the week commencing the 4th January 2021. This, however, is parental choice.

All pupils, whether on school site or accessing remote learning will follow their normal timetable throughout the week. Work and resources will be available on Go4Schools, and we will endeavor to deliver as many lessons virtually by the teacher through Google Classroom.

You will also be aware that schools are being offered to take part in a programme to offer lateral testing to staff and pupils, particularly pupils classed as close contacts. This test is for people who are not showing any signs of the virus, but could still be carrying and transmitting it. One of the suggested benefits of this is to reduce the time children are spending in isolation and therefore, missing face-to-face teaching. This is a totally optional programme for schools to join, and there would be no requirement for any pupil to take part in the event if we do opt in.

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Despite reading the government guidance and attending an information webinar today there are still many questions that need to be answered, equipment to be provided and practical support to be given by the government for schools to be able to deliver what has been asked of us at such short notice. I feel it is important to gather the opinion of our school community as a whole about this and so there will be a questionnaire sent to you shortly so that you can indicate to us whether you would be willing to give your consent for your child to receive the lateral test within school. We will collate and look at this information prior to agreeing to carry out any testing on site.

For those of you with children in Y7-Y10 this questionnaire will also ask whether you require your child to attend school during the week commencing 4th January 2021 and the reason for this.

After the initial phased return, all pupils will be expected to return to school on Monday 11th January 2021 regardless of their year group.

I apologise that we are only able to share this information now, but please be assured that we are working hard still to make sure things are put in place for our return in January 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Christey
Headteacher



