



Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the first half term of this new Covid world I want to pass on my thanks to all parents who have supported both their child and the school regarding the stringent Covid-19 rules.

The students have been exceptional in stepping up and to reassure you the **very small** minority of students who have not followed the Covid-19 regulations have been excluded in line with the risk assessment shared previously. This can be found at <https://www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/copy-of-letters-for-parents>. The safety of the school community will always come first.

To reassure all parents, if your child needs to be isolated at home or if the school must partially close, we have produced a seamless learning experience for every year group ensuring they follow the full curriculum. This can be accessed at the Kenton Learning Zone www.tinyurl.com/KLZintro or via the KLZ tab on the Kenton School website.

As we look ahead to a new half term please can I ask parents to ensure that your child attends school each day with the facial covering that was provided, or suitable alternative, or wear the medical exemption lanyard the school has provided to them. We would also appreciate it if you talk through social distancing practises that they should undertake as they journey to school; 'Hands, Face, Space'.

Please can I remind parents if your child forgets something for school, we are unable to receive this item from you due to the Covid-19 risk assessment. Please ensure your child brings their own water bottle to school along with their own bag and equipment.

As we are approaching winter please can you send your child to school with a winter coat. This can be worn over their blazers. I have also enclosed a leaflet with our uniform expectations.

If you need to speak to a member of staff, please call the school on 0191 2142200, you can also make an appointment to speak to someone if they aren't immediately available. Due to Covid-19 unless there is a prior appointment you will not be allowed on site.

We have received numerous complaints from local residents regarding illegal and dangerous parking. Parents are choosing to park at junctions, park on pavements, park across residents' driveways and double park on roads. This is both illegal and will increase the risk of a road traffic accident. Blocking the paths with cars pushes pedestrians, including Kenton students, on to the roads.

We would prefer that your child walked, cycled, or took a public bus to school, which supports the Newcastle Council vision to make the city green.

If you must use a car as a last resort to drop off your child please follow the one-way system in the car park and leave promptly having dropped your child off.

We have reviewed the reopening plan and have been able to make some minor changes at this stage:

- We are now able to offer a limited choice of hot meal for every year group
- We are able to open the LRC to a limited number of students
- We are able to open the MUGA to a limited number of students
- PERI music lessons have recommenced

Kenton School is committed to keeping all children safe

This letter can be supplied in large print, as an audio recording or in a language other than English. Please contact Ms G Taylor, PA to the Principal to arrange an alternative version.



Form Time

We introduced an extended form time at the start of each day. This has been well received by all our students. I have enclosed a leaflet explaining the activities that are covered during this time.

Homework

“Never let your daughter / son tell you they don't have any homework!”

Trusted research by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that the impact of doing regular homework over the course of a school year is, on average, five months' worth of additional progress, compared to students who fail to do their homework. To this end I am asking that all parents support our homework policy and actively supervise their child or check the completion of each homework task. The tasks are in planners and will also be accessible from home through the website. Every homework has been mapped out for the entire year so that you can guarantee that every day at least one subject homework requires completing. This map is in the front of the planner and available on the school website.

SIMS pay

In order that we can reduce the amount of cash and cheques that enter the school premises and provide parents with greater convenience for school trip, clubs and school meal payments, we have invited all parents to use our secure e-payments solution SIMS Pay; allowing payments online or by cash at PayPoint outlets or Post Office. If you have not received your registration details please e-mail 4485finance1@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk or telephone the finance department, which is option 3 on the school switchboard.

As I stated at the beginning of the letter Kenton students have really stepped up to the challenge, 149,650 positive points have been awarded which constitutes 95% of all points given. 38,808 positive points have been awarded in Year 7 alone, this constitutes 98% of all points awarded in the year group. A fantastic start to the year in such difficult circumstances.

Please note that Friday 23rd October is a Staff Training Day so the school is closed to students. We will welcome back all year groups on Monday 2nd November. Details of all term dates can be found at <https://www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/calendar> . I hope you all have a restful and happy half term.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Holmes-Carne
Principal

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