Dear parents / carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil or pupil is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors / trustees.

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| **School reopenings** | We are pleased to say that our extensive risk assessments and re-rooming of classes to create bubbles has meant that Kenton School has been able to fully open to students at the start of the academic year. |
| **Attendance** |

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| **Group**  | **% Attend**  |
| Year 7 | 93.9 |
| Year 8 | 92.5 |
| Year 9 | 89.3 |
| Year 10 | 92.3 |
| Year 11 | 92.1 |

Attendance has remained largely consistent with the same period last year. The % attendance of pupils with a SEND is around 4% lower than during the same period last year which suggests pupils with a SEND are experiencing more anxiety about returning. The school’s attendance team continue to operate as normal with risk assessed home visits but the local authority has taken the decision not to pursue any legal monitoring at this time which is a disappointment to the school as we are certain there are families that legitimately fall under the legal monitoring umbrella. |
| **Coverage of the curriculum** | We are very clear that we will not be narrowing our curriculum because of the closure during lockdown. Teachers are using informal assessments and activities at the start of lessons to map out what lockdown learning has been secured and what is yet to be mastered. There may be adaptations to the existing schemes of work to ensure that foundational knowledge is secured before new learning is undertaken. Later in the year all students will be moving forward with the normal timelines for learning.In Years 11 and 13 we are working closely with exam boards to ensure that our students are best prepared for the examinations in the summer. We will explain very clearly to students what changes are being made to assessment for qualifications being awarded this year. Later this term we will be ensuring our students are well equipped for independent learning by starting to teach the Kenton Revision Methods to Year 11. These will be a small group of techniques that research says are the most effective ways to revise. |
| **Remote learning March - July 2020** | We were delighted with the response to lessons available on dropbox2 and GCSE Pod during closure. 98% of parents who completed our survey said their children were accessing the work. 66% felt that students were being set an appropriate amount of work, with the rest being equally split between too much and too little. Over 80% of our new Year 11 students signed up to and used GCSE Pod. |
| **Remote learning in the future**  | We will very shortly be launching the Kenton Learning Zone, an area of the school website that students will be able to visit to look at the lesson resources they are using in class. These will have added videos and narration to support students not in school because of illness, or for students to use when following their normal timetable in the case of another lockdown. If the school were to be closed for more than two weeks at any time in the future these lessons would be supplemented with online quizzes to allow teachers to provide feedback on remote learning. We are currently working with the Department for Education to ensure that all students have access to computer facilities if they cannot attend school. |
| **Mental health and wellbeing**  | Students should speak to their Form Tutor or Year Leader in the first instance, who can signpost and refer to a range of support services such as:* Nurse
* Trailblazer
* Kalmer
* CYPS
* Mentor
* Streetwise
* Social Care
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Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school’s and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.