August 2021

Dear parent/carer,

As I promised in July this is the last letter explaining the reopening to you and your family.

Please can I ask you to read the September Reopening plan and Risk Assessment that can be found [www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/copy-of-letters-for-parents](http://www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/copy-of-letters-for-parents) any queries or concerns please contact the school. The Risk Assessment has undergone very few changes from the first reopening last September. I must reiterate the measures we have put in place will be regularly reviewed.

I must take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring your child adhered to every aspect of the Risk Assessment throughout last academic year. There are no doubts, it was due to your child following the risk assessment, that we were able to keep the whole school community safe. I know if we continue to work together, we will continue to keep the school community safe.

The focus of this letter is to help you understand the date and time your child should return and our expectations on uniform and equipment.

**Return to school**

Your child will return to school on the following day/time;

Child’s name:

Day of Year group return:

Form group return time:

This may be a different time to other year/form groups as part of the staggered return to school.

All consent for previous C19 testing from March 2021 is still in place. If you are still to give consent this can be completed at [**https://tinyurl.com/KentonTestingPermission**](https://tinyurl.com/KentonTestingPermission)**.**

Since I last wrote the Government has issued new guidance regarding facial coverings. We have been working with Newcastle Local Authority and Public Health England to keep an eye on the local picture regarding Covid19 in Newcastle. At present, the rate of infection is higher in Newcastle than the national average. Therefore, we have made the decision to continue to ask that facial coverings are worn in all communal areas ***inside*** the building by both adults and students. **We will review this every two weeks.**

We do not expect facial coverings to be worn in classrooms, however, we appreciate that some students with medical issues may feel more comfortable wearing a facial covering in the classroom. Can I ask that if your child has an exemption due to medical reasons for not being able to wear a facial covering you contact your child's Year Leader as soon as possible and we will look to accommodate any special requests. I need to insist that facial coverings are either the Kenton School uniform facial coverings or an alternative that is plain in colour. Scarfs, snoods, visors are not acceptable.

Other key points:

* Water fountains are currently not available and students must bring their own bottled water (we are reviewing the Risk Assessment and will continue to offer water refills and cups in the year group yard at lunchtime until we can move back to the dispensers)
* Parents and visitors cannot enter the school site without a prior appointment.
* We strongly encourage students to walk or cycle to school. **We would urge** **parents to use the school carpark as a drop off or pick up point before or after school and not the surrounding areas.**
* Current guidance stipulates that on public transport all students aged 11 and over must wear facial coverings for the journey except where an individual has exemptions for medical reasons.
* Guidance also states pupils should sit in their own Year Group ‘bubbles’ on public transport
* Please allow for additional time for students to access the site from 8.00am as in order to comply with social distancing students will have a specific gate with which to enter.

**Basic Equipment**

Please ensure that your child has a school bag and that they have a pencil case containing pens, pencils, a ruler and a scientific calculator so that they are ready to learn.  This is even more important now we face the repercussions of Covid 19 and try to avoid another wave of infections. Your child will be provided with a student planner during their first form time lesson in September.

**SEND Support**

We will continue to offer a high degree of support to our SEND students, in line with the Government guidelines for schools.  Learning Support Assistants will work with our pupils but, to maintain the ‘school within a school’ model, they will be assigned to year group bubbles to ensure staff and students stay safe.  The support we offer during unstructured social times will remain in place, with a quiet and supervised space available within each bubble for a restricted number of pupils.  These students will be issued with a pass upon their return to Kenton.  For students accessing SEND Transport, the drop off and pick up point will remain at the E0 entrance of the school.  From this point pupils will be directed around the perimeter of the school in order to access their year group area.  As with all provision at Kenton School, the support being offered will be under continual review and adapted where necessary.

**Future Proofing – School within a School**

Covid provided many obstacles but also some opportunities. Over the last year we have trialled a completely new school set up and have reviewed the impact of this for our pupils with their learning, personal development, behaviour and attendance.

Moving forward, Kenton School will operate a ‘School within a School’ model, meaning that your child will have their own year group school entrance, social area, lunch area and teaching block.

We require year groups to use a specific gate to gain access to the school at the start of the school day.  Please remember pupils are not allowed onto the school site until 8am at this point they will be greeted at their gate by a member of the senior team and directed into their area.

**Year 7**

Pupils will be directed to their gate on Kenton Lane their first day as we are conscious they do not know the school well.  There will be ample staff on this first day to supervise this.  But from day 2 onwards pupils need to be responsible for ensuring they use this gate between 8.00am and 8.20am, staff will be around to support this for the first few weeks until routines are established.

**All Years**

Pupils MUST access the school site from their specific gate and no pupils will be allowed into a different gate even if they have siblings in school. Each gate will be locked at 8.20 so it is crucial pupils are punctual.

For parents wishing to drop their children off at school by car, **the school carpark must be used as the drop off or pick up point before or after school and not the surrounding areas and then the students walk around the exterior of the school to their year group entrance gate.**

**School Uniform**

Please read the guidance carefully and if you are unsure of any aspect please ring the school and leave a message for your child's Year Leader. This is particularly important if you had to make an additional purchase last year. Common errors are;

* Purchasing Lycra skirts
* Skirts that are not knee length
* Jeggings or leggings
* Shoes with non-black adorations such as bows, buckles and brand names
* Boots not shoes
* Non-natural dyed hair
* Wearing jewellery

Uniform expectations can be found at https://www.kenton.newcastle.sch.uk/uniform, including some information on school skirts. We need to make it clear, lycra miniskirts and any other mini type skirt is not school uniform. We have enclosed a flyer of appropriate school uniform skirt styles and need to be clear the length should be no shorter than just at/above the knee.

Kenton School uniform consists of a blazer, white collared shirt (short or long sleeved) and tie. The blazer badge and tie colour represents your child’s year group. In addition, school trousers and skirts must be black. Jeans, leggings and jeggings are not acceptable.

Any uniform issues will result in isolation we and would rather you worked with us to ensure your child has the correct uniform. Can I please insist you familiarise yourself with the uniform code to avoid any unnecessary confusion in September.

In particular, please note that shoes (not trainers or sports shoes) must be completely black with no branding or decoration in other colours. We must also stress that boots are not permitted. The change of school shoe policy occurred as a result of feedback from students about the pressure to wear certain types of “fashionable” shoe. We really appreciate your support when selecting appropriate school shoes for your child.

Hair should be of a natural colour and should be cut in a sensible style. Apart from a stud in each ear and a wristwatch, the wearing of jewellery is not allowed and will be removed and confiscated. We cannot accept any liability for any loss or damage of confiscated items. Facial piercings are not allowed for health and safety reasons. False nails of any type are not allowed.

**Mobile phones, jewellery, false nails and nail varnish, make up, hair colour of an unnatural shade**

Please can you check that before your child leaves for school any jewellery is limited to one pair of earrings, there should be no false nails, nail varnish or make up and hair must be of a natural colour. The consequences for not adhering to this are well documented and we would much prefer to be discussing your child’s learning than how they are dressed.

Students who are not dressed appropriately should expect to be isolated. We would rather work together with parents and students to avoid this.

**PE Kit**

All pupils are expected to have a polo shirt adorned with the Kenton logo (Boys navy blue, girls sapphire blue) navy blue/black shorts, navy blue/black leggings or navy blue/black tracksuit bottoms, navy blue socks and trainers. If a student is not in the correct kit then they will be issued with a detention.

Uniform, including PE kit, is available from Top Class Uniforms shops at either:

Blakelaw Shopping Centre 45 Arlington Avenue

4 Moulton Place Montague Estate

Newcastle upon Tyne Newcastle upon Tyne

NE5 3RL NE3 4TS

Their website, <https://www.tcuniforms.co.uk/> has been updated to include in-depth size guides for each item to make distanced ordering and sizing easier for all.

Email contacts for concerns about learning

If you have concerns about **any aspect** of home learning please email the point of contact below.

Year 7: [Sarah.Rice@Kenton.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:Sarah.Rice@Kenton.newcastle.sch.uk)

Year 8 & Year 10: [James.Robinson@Kenton.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:James.Robinson@Kenton.newcastle.sch.uk)

Year 9 & Year 11: Ross.Scherer@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk

P16: [Stephen.Ord@Kenton.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:Stephen.Ord@Kenton.newcastle.sch.uk)

Email contacts for concerns about welfare including mental health or if you have a safeguarding concern about any aspect of home learning.

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| Year 7 | Mr Catherall – Garry.Catherall@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk |
| Year 8 | Mr Allan - [Matthew.Allan@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:Matthew.Allan@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk)  Mr Ferguson – Angus.Ferguson@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk |
| Year 9 | Mrs Rutherford - Jannene.Rutherford@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk  Mr Antony - Paul.Antony@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk |
| Year 10 | Mr Turnbull - Nigel.Turnbull@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk  Mrs Angus - Alison.Angus@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk |
| Year11 | Mr Bouleau - Andre.Bouleau@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk  Mrs Hunter - Jocelyn.Hunter@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk |
| Year 12/13 | Miss Philson – Lisa.Philson@kenton.newcastle.sch.uk |

Finally, if you feel, as a parent or guardian, your child has a long term and acute health condition which may place them at additional risk on their return to school, we ask you contact the school where we can discuss a specific risk assessment based on their own risk assessment from medical professionals.

I am looking forward to welcoming back all our students new and old.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Holmes-Carne

Principal