



The King's School **Frequently Asked Questions for Parents** **of new Year 7 Students from September 2020**

What are the key ways in which we are trying to ensure safety for students?

A full risk assessment has been carried out and is available on the school website.

- Your child will spend most of their time at school in a year group “bubble” e.g. lesson time, break and lunchtimes. When moving from lesson to lesson students may pass others around the school site. On the few occasions where it is difficult to maintain a year group bubble, students will be expected to stay socially distanced from others.
- Hand sanitation stations will be available outside all classrooms and buildings. Students will be required to use these prior to entry.
- Toilet facilities are shared across bubbles but there will be increased cleaning of toilet facilities and other key areas around the school during the day.
- When students leave a classroom, the classroom will be cleaned by the teacher prior to the next group of students arriving, assuming they are from a different year group bubble.
- The Canteen is being split into two halves, with a dividing wall, in order to ensure canteen arrangements can continue whilst maintain the year group bubbles. There will be a restricted menu choice.
- Year group bubbles will have their own designated playground area.
- Students may not move rooms quite as often as usual and some teachers may move to be with them for some lessons.

Does my child have to attend school?

Yes. The Government advice is very clear on this and everyone needs to attend school every day and on time. The only exceptions are where specific medical advice has been given to a student. The family of any student in this category must contact the school in advance of the start of term to discuss arrangements for their child's education.

What do I do if my child is anxious about coming back?

Talk the issue through with them at home and go through the FAQ for Students. Re-assure them that the school is taking reasonable steps to ensure everyone's safety. Use this link from Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/supporting-a-child-returning-to-school-after-lockdown/>. If you need to contact someone in school please use this e-mail address studentsupport@thekings.devon.sch.uk and someone will get back to you.

When is my Year 7 Child's first day?

We expect all students to attend school on Friday 4th September for the Year 7 Induction Day. If there is any reason why they cannot attend the Induction Day please let us know in advance by e-mailing absence@thekings.devon.sch.uk. On this day Year 7 will be the only year group in school. Other students start back on Monday 7th September.

How should my child travel to school?

The advice is to walk, cycle or get a lift in a car (following Government guidelines re sharing lifts) to school wherever possible.

What is happening with the school buses?

If your child normally travels on a school bus, and cannot get to school via other means, you may use this mode of transport. In the next week or so Devon County Council will be sending out bus passes and information regarding bus travel from September. Please remind your child that they should be at their bus stop **at least ten minutes before their scheduled time**. Buses will leave soon after 3pm at the end of the school day.

Should my child wear a face covering or face mask on the school bus?

It is now a requirement to wear a face covering on the school bus and on public transport. Any face coverings must be removed before students come on to the school site. If it is of the disposable type, it should be placed in a bin near the entrance; if it is re-usable it must be placed in a plastic bag which your child needs to provide.

Are face coverings or face masks allowed in school?

Government guidance on face coverings in education was updated on 26 August. Whilst the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally, schools have discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed. We have a wide range of hygiene measures and systems of control in place but recognise that face coverings may provide additional confidence to students, parents and staff. Therefore, it is permitted for students and staff to wear face coverings whilst moving around the school site.

Government guidance states that 'Face coverings can have a negative impact on learning and teaching and so their use in the classroom should be avoided'. Students will be asked to remove face coverings before entry to a classroom and must sanitise their hands immediately after placing the covering in a re-sealable bag. Students must provide their own face covering and plastic bags. Students will not be permitted to wear a face covering during a lesson unless there is an underlying medical condition and their IHCP determines there is a need for this. If you feel that there is a medical need for your child to wear a face covering in a lesson, please contact the school.

What time should my child arrive at school?

They should not arrive at school before 8.30am. Before this time, we are unable to supervise them and ensure safety, including social distancing. It is difficult for us to implement a staggered start to the school day due to the rural nature of the school catchment and the constraints of the school timetable.

What does my child do when they arrive at school?

Students should arrive through the Coachpark entrance ONLY.

On Friday 4th September they should go to the playground outside the Main Hall area where they will be organised into house groups. It is really important that your son/daughter knows which House they are in and who their tutor is. If they are not sure please e-mail studentsupport@thekings.devon.sch.uk as soon as possible.

On their Induction Day they will be shown where to go when they arrive on Monday 7th – they will be based in the playground outside the New Block, away from other year groups.

What will students be doing on the Induction Day – Friday 4th September?

On this day they will be able to meet other students in their tutor group and teaching group. They will also meet key staff and will be able to get used to the school site with no other students present. There will be a range of different activities to ensure that they are ready for school to start on Monday 7th September.

What lessons will my child be studying when he/she is at school?

Students will follow a full timetable of lessons.

What will the school day look like?

The school day will be adapted with staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes. For example, Year 7, 8, and 9 will have a different breaktime and lunchtime to the students in the older year groups. Lunch break will be half an hour which means that school will end at 3pm rather than 3.30pm. Please see the separate timetable. Please ensure that you make arrangements for your child to get home safely when school ends at 3pm. There will be no lunchtime practices taking place. There will continue to be a limited number of afterschool clubs.

Year 7's school day will be:

- 8.45am to 9.50am – Period 1 (to include morning registration)
- 9.50am to 10.50am – Period 2
- 10.50am to 11.10am – Break (in the area outside the New Block)
- 11.10am to 12.10pm – Period 3
- 12.10pm to 1.10pm – Period 4
- 1.10pm to 1.40pm – Lunch Break (in the area outside the New Block and in the Canteen)
- 1.40pm to 2pm – Tutor time in your tutor room
- 2pm to 3pm – Period 5

What are the rules on handwashing and hygiene?

All the advice makes it clear that regular handwashing and/or sanitising is vital. When students arrive and leave school they will be expected to sanitise their hands at the stations at the entrances. In addition, there will be hand sanitiser available outside every classroom. Students are expected to sanitise on arrival at lessons and when they are going to break or lunch.

Students should bring their own tissues into school but there will also be tissues available in each classroom. If students sneeze/cough they are expected to use a tissue or to cover their mouth/nose with an arm rather than their hand. A used tissue must be placed in the specialist lidded bins immediately. Any subsequent sneezing should use fresh tissues. At all times, students are expected to avoid touching their face – mouth, nose and eyes

Do students have to use a specific toilet block?

No. As per Government guidance, this is not required. They can use any toilets but should always choose the nearest ones to the area they are in at the time. An enhanced cleaning regime will be in place.

What about break and lunchtime?

Break and lunchtime will be staggered so different groups have their breaks at different times. Students will have designated areas to go to.

Can my child still buy food from the Canteen

Yes, but the food offer will not be as wide and there will be no Main Meals.

During the first two weeks there will be no breaktime offer from the canteen and we will seek to provide a breaktime service once the new routines are established.

How does my child pay for their lunch if they decide to have one?

They will be issued with a lunch card which they will use to pay for their lunch. However, in order to have a school lunch you must have loaded money on to their account in advance. You

should have been sent details of how to do this. The Finance Office will not be accepting cash during this time and parents can only top up online. If you cannot do this at the moment, please email finance@thekings.devon.sch.uk and the team will set you up.

What happens if my child qualifies for Free School Meals?

If your child qualifies for free school meals, the money will automatically be added to their account.

Will movement around school be affected?

In addition to the restrictions on where students can go before school and at break and lunchtimes, they will need to access some parts of the school in a different way from normal. There will be one-way systems in operation and restricted access to certain parts of the school site. This will be explained to them on 4th September.

Will staff work in the same way?

The Government have advised that staff should stay at the front of the class wherever possible and keep a two metre distance where they can. Students that require additional support will receive this support.

Does my child need to wear full school uniform?

All students need to wear correct uniform. Full details are on the school website and in the Student Planner. It includes:

- School blazer
- School clip-on tie with house colour.
- Plain blue shirt collared shirt (buttoned to the collar) and which are tucked into trousers or skirt. Short/long sleeved shirts are acceptable.
- Plain mid-grey formal full length trousers.
- Mid-grey school skirt; pleated or straight. It must be worn to knee length
- Plain black leather-type formal shoes
- No jewellery except a watch and one pair of small studs or sleepers for the ears.
- Black/grey plain socks
- Plain navy blue tights. Socks and tights should not be worn together.
- A narrow, plain black belt may be worn.

Also please note that:

- Extremes of hairstyle (for example significant differences in length, tram lines) are not acceptable. Only natural hair colours are permitted.
- Make-up should be discreet. Brightly coloured eye make-up and nail varnish is not permitted. False/acrylic nails must not be worn to school.

What happens if my child does not have the correct uniform?

We expect all students to be in correct uniform in September. Please remember that the branded parts of the uniform are available from Thomas Moore and Honiton Sports. Other items are available from a wide variety of retailers. In the very unlikely event that your child has an item of clothing missing, you must either contact the school in advance (StudentSupport@thekings.devon.sch.uk) or send your child into school with a note to explain why.

What happens on the days that my child has a practical PE lesson?

On the days when students have practical PE lessons, they are expected to come to school in their PE kit. This reduces the risk of infection with students sharing changing rooms. On the days when students attend school in their PE kit they must also bring in their normal school uniform apart from their blazer. This is so that if students are caught out in poor weather, they can change into their uniform afterwards. Students will not have to wear a blazer in this scenario. If students are wearing the school hooded PE sweatshirt, they **should not** wear a blazer over the top of this.

What is my child expected to wear when they have a practical PE lesson?

This will vary from year group to year group due to the change in PE kit but all jewellery must be removed by all students prior to PE lessons.

Yr7 BOYS PE Kit: Aptus Essentials sky-blue polo shirt with embroidered logo and/or black rugby shirt with reversible band inside with house colour & white collar; **plain/all black** shorts; **plain/all black** socks or short white sports socks. In addition students should be allowed to wear a **plain black or navy** outer layer/sweatshirt (as the 1/4 zip training top is not compulsory for boys) and **plain black or navy** tracksuit trousers. Our preference is for students to wear tracksuit bottoms however for some students this may be difficult so students may wear their school trousers /skirt over their PE kit and remove for their PE lesson. It is also acceptable for students to wear a **plain black or navy** base layer under their polo shirt.

Yr7 GIRLS PE Kit: Aptus Essentials sky-blue polo shirt with embroidered logo Aptus Essentials 1/4 zip training top with embroidered logo; **plain/all black** shorts or skirt; **plain/all black** socks or short white sports socks. In addition students should be allowed to wear **plain black or navy** tracksuit trousers. Yr7/8 girls should **not** wear leggings. Our preference is for students to wear tracksuit bottoms however for some students this may be difficult so students may wear their school trousers /skirt over their PE kit and remove for their PE lesson. It is also acceptable for students to wear a **plain black or navy** base layer under their polo shirt.

What other equipment does my child need to bring in?

All students will need to bring in pens, pencils, a ruler, scissors, glue, calculator, protractor, pair of compasses, highlighters etc. We will be unable to share equipment with students due to the risk of infection and they will not be allowed to share equipment with other people in their class.

If my child has forgotten an item of equipment needed for school, can I drop it in at reception?

Until further notice we are unable to allow parents to drop off forgotten equipment due to the infection risk. Please help your son or daughter to ensure they have everything they need by checking with them the night before.

Will staff in Student Support be available to support my child?

Pastoral staff will be available however the process for accessing Student Support will be different. This will be explained to all students when they return.

What happens if my child is ill?

- You are expected to inform the school if your child has potential symptoms of coronavirus.
- If your child is ill or cannot attend school for any reason it is imperative that you e-mail absence@thekings.devon.sch.uk or ring the absence line on 01404 816910.
- If your child feels that they are experiencing coronavirus symptoms during the school day, they are expected to speak to an adult immediately. If this is the case they will be taken to a separate room in Student Support to reduce the risk of harm to others. The situation will be assessed and you will be expected to make immediate arrangements to pick your child up.

Does the normal school behaviour policy apply?

- Students are expected to follow the normal rules that we have in school. They should be respectful of all other students and staff.
- If students don't behave appropriately we follow a strike system. Students who get two or three strikes would normally get a detention soon after the incident, usually at lunchtime. Due to our shorter lunchtimes, and the need for students to get a break and have time to eat, we will now be holding detentions after school. We aim for these to take place as soon as possible after the incident.
- It is important to note that due to the risk of infection any student found to have coughed over or spat at another student or done anything that might cause an increased risk of infection will be considered to have seriously breached the school's behaviour policy and this will result in a serious sanction.

What will happen if one or a few students test positive for COVID-19?

The school has clear procedures in place to segregate students as per the Government guidance. We would then liaise and seek further advice from Public Health England who would advise us on our next steps.

Is the school preparing for local lockdowns or partial closures?

Yes. If the school were to close due to a local lockdown we would move to a full timetable of virtual lessons using MS Teams.

How is the school supporting “catch-up” of learning?

Students are taught in mixed ability groups and this will allow the teacher to undertake a range of learning activities with students to assess their current level of understanding. The Year 7 taught curriculum is designed to support the transition from primary school to secondary school and this year will be no exception. We will not be re-teaching Year 6 content, instead we will be focusing on developing the knowledge and skills necessary for students to be successful at secondary school.

Where can I find further information?

On the school website there is a COVID-19 section under the “About Us” tab. In here are various other documents that you may want to look at. In addition, there is further information for new Year 7 Parents in the Year 6 Induction section under the “Admissions” tab.

What if I have further questions?

If you have any questions in relation to the new term please e-mail studentsupport@thekings.devon.sch.uk. Please be aware that staff are on holiday so may not reply to your e-mail straightaway.