



## **The King's School** **Frequently Asked Questions for New Year 7 Students from September** **2020**

Do I have to attend school in September?

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 you to say that you should not attend. If this applies to you, your family must contact the school in advance of the start of term to discuss arrangements for your education.

What do I do if I am anxious about coming to King's?

Talk to an adult at home and discuss your concerns. Alternatively look at this link which has some strategies to help you: [https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/managing-feelings-about-changes-to-lockdown/?utm\\_source=Schools+Updates&utm\\_campaign=928d76c7d4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_04\\_25\\_03\\_46\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d23e44bb74-928d76c7d4-74759351](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/managing-feelings-about-changes-to-lockdown/?utm_source=Schools+Updates&utm_campaign=928d76c7d4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_25_03_46_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d23e44bb74-928d76c7d4-74759351)

If you need to contact someone in school, please use this e-mail address [studentsupport@thekings.devon.sch.uk](mailto:studentsupport@thekings.devon.sch.uk) and someone will get back to you.

When is my first day?

We expect all Year 7 students to attend school on Friday 4th September for the Year 7 Induction Day. If there is any reason why you cannot attend on the Induction Day, you should inform us in advance by e-mailing [absence@thekings.devon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@thekings.devon.sch.uk). On this day Year 7 will be the only year group in school. Other students start back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

How should I 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 you cannot travel by one of the methods above, and cannot get to school via other means, you may travel on the school bus if you have been given a place. You should receive details from Devon County Council about your pick-up time and arrangements for travel before the start of term. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL BUSES RUNNING ON FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AS THIS IS AN EXTRA DAY FOR YEAR 7 ONLY.** Please make alternative arrangements on this day.

### Is there anything else I need to know about the school bus?

You will be expected to sit in Year Group bubbles on the bus wherever possible. It is anticipated that Year 7 will sit towards the front of the bus.

### Should I wear a face covering on the school bus?

It is now a requirement to wear a face covering on the school bus and on public transport. Any face masks must be removed before you 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 you need to provide.

### Are face coverings 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 you to wear a face covering in a lesson, please discuss this with your parents and then contact the school.

### What time should I arrive at school?

You should not arrive at school before 8.30am. Before this time, we are unable to supervise you. You MUST be at school by the time the first bell rings at 8.43am. This is the warning bell; registration starts at 8.45am.

### What do I do when I arrive at school?

You should arrive through the Coachpark entrance ONLY unless you have been issued with a pass to allow access via the Cadhay Lane gate.

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September you should go to the playground outside the Main Hall area where you will be organised into your house groups. It is really important that you remember which House you are in and who your tutor is.

On your Induction Day you will be shown where to go when you arrive on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September– you will be based in the playground outside the New Block, away from other year groups.

### What will we be doing on our Induction Day – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September?

On this day you will be able to meet other students in your tutor group and teaching group. You 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 you are ready for school to start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

### What lessons will I be studying when school starts on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September?

You will follow a full timetable as usual.

### 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.

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 playground 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 playground area outside the New Block and in the Canteen)
- 1.40pm to 2pm – Tutor time in your tutor room
- 2pm to 3pm – Period 5

Apart from on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>September, do I go to my tutor every morning?

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> you go straight to your tutor room (which you will be shown on the 4<sup>th</sup> September). You will have your first lesson with your tutor where you will follow up what you did on the Induction Day. On all other days you should go straight to the period 1 lesson on your timetable. Your teacher (not your tutor) will register you and go through the Student Bulletin. This change is to reduce movement and to avoid unnecessary congestion.

What rules do I need to follow on Handwashing and Hygiene?

All the advice makes it clear that regular handwashing and/or sanitising is vital. When you arrive and leave school you will be expected to sanitise your hands at the stations at the entrances. In addition, there will be hand sanitiser available at every classroom. You are expected to sanitise on arrival at lessons and when you are going to break or lunch. You should bring tissues into school but there will also be tissues available in each classroom. If you sneeze / cough you are expected to use a tissue or to cover your mouth / nose with an arm rather than your hand. A used tissue must be placed in the specialist lidded bins immediately. Any subsequent sneezing should use fresh tissues. At all times you are expected to avoid touching your face – mouth, nose and eyes

Do I have to use a specific toilet block?

No. You can use any toilets but should always choose the nearest ones to the area you are in at the time. All toilets will be cleaned regularly.

Where do I go at break and lunchtime?

Break and lunchtime will be staggered so different groups have their breaks at different times. You cannot go anywhere you want on the site as we are keeping different years separate. Therefore, your year group should go to the area outside the New Block only. You will be shown where this is.

Can I buy food from the canteen?

Yes, but the food offer will not be as wide as usual. We would encourage as many students as possible to trial the food in the canteen so that they get used to the school routines. At the start of term there will only be food available at lunchtime. You should bring in your own snacks for breaktime if you need them. We will explain to you when and where to access the canteen.

How do I pay for my lunch?

You will be issued with a lunch card which you will use to pay for your lunch. However, in order to have a school lunch, your parents must have loaded money on to your account in advance. They have had details of how to do this.

### What happens if I have Free School Meals?

If you qualify for free school meals, the money will automatically be added to your lunch card account.

### What happens if it is wet at break or lunchtime?

You will be told where you are allowed to go.

### How do I move about the school?

In addition to the restrictions on where you can go at break and lunchtime, there will be some one-way systems in place to reduce congestion and help with social distancing. This will be explained to you when you on the Induction Day.

### What happens if I get lost?

If you get lost, or if you need help at any time, make sure that you ask an adult. They will help you.

### What other specific measures are we taking to try and ensure that we minimise the risk of infection?

- You will spend most of your time in a year group “bubble”. If there are exceptions to this you will be expected to keep a social distance of 2m between you and other students or staff.
- There will be increased cleaning of toilet facilities and other key areas around the school during the day.
- When you leave a classroom, it will be cleaned prior to other students arriving if they are in a different year group bubble.
- The canteen has been split into two halves with a dividing wall in order to ensure canteen arrangements can continue whilst maintaining the year group bubbles.
- There will be barriers in some outside areas so that students are clear where they should be at break and lunchtime.
- You may not move rooms quite as often as usual and some teachers may move to be with you for some lessons.

### Do I need to wear school uniform?

You need to wear your full school uniform. Please refer to your planner or the school website. 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 I don't have the correct uniform?

You are expected to be in complete uniform. In the very unlikely event that you have an item of clothing missing, **you must bring in a note written by a parent/guardian and give it to the member of staff you have at the start of the day.** If you don't do this you may have a sanction.

#### What happens on the days that I have a practical PE lesson?

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

#### What am I expected to wear when I have a practical PE lesson?

This will vary depending on which year group you are in due to the change in PE kit but all jewellery must be removed by all students prior to PE lessons.

Yr 7 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.

Yr 7 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 skort; **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 do I need to bring in?

You will need to bring in pens, pencils, a ruler, scissors, glue, calculator, protractor, pair of compasses, highlighters etc. If you have your own headphones please bring these in too when you are using an IT suite as any school headphones borrowed will have to be sanitised between use. Please remember that you can only use headphones when a teacher tells you to and they **MUST** be “off and away” at all other times. We will be unable to share equipment with you due to the risk of infection and you will not be allowed to share equipment with other people in your class.

#### Will I be able to speak to staff in Student Support?

Pastoral staff will be available and you will be able to talk to them, however you cannot just go over to Student Support. You will be told how you can access this support on your first morning in school.

#### What happens if I am ill?

- If you have coronavirus symptoms you should **NOT** come to school and you should follow Government guidelines. Your parent/guardian should contact the school as soon as possible.
- If you are ill or cannot attend school for any reason it is essential that your parent/guardian lets us know.
- If you feel that you are experiencing coronavirus symptoms during the school day you are expected to speak to an adult immediately. If this is the case you will be taken to a separate room in Student Support to reduce the risk to others. The situation will be assessed, and your parent/guardian will be expected to make immediate arrangements to pick you up.

#### What happens if I require First Aid?

Tell a member of staff straightaway and they will contact a first aider to come and support you.

#### Does the normal school behaviour policy apply?

You are expected to follow the normal rules that we have in school. You should be respectful of all other students and staff.

We will explain the behaviour policy to you when you come to King's. If you don't conform to our expectations, there will be sanctions including detentions that are put in place. Detentions will take place after school due to the shortened lunchtime.

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 happens at the end of the school day?

School ends at 3pm. You will need to leave the school via the Coachpark exit and make sure you know where to meet anyone who might be picking you up.