

July 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are keeping well. We are thinking of you all and the staff team miss students and parents enormously. It seems incredible that we are now approaching the end of a school year. When schools were closed in March, I don't think any of us believed we would still not be fully back in school in July! Whilst the school has remained open throughout to children of key workers and our most vulnerable children, it has also been such a delight to welcome Y10 and Y12 back for some face to face work and we can't wait to reunite our full school community in September.

I must start with huge congratulations to our Y13 students who received their IB results last week. 94% of the cohort passed the course with 32% of grades being 5 or above and 80% grade 4 or above (IB grading is from 7-1). The students have achieved some superb results and they are off to a wide range of exciting and challenging next steps, from top universities, to Higher Level apprenticeships to places in the British Forces. They are a terrific bunch of young people who have shown immense character in rising to the challenges, especially in the last few months. Once again, we have seen how the IBCP programme supports our young people in really finding their passions and developing their wider skills alongside rigorous, academic studies. Details of the Y11 Results Day arrangements (20th August) will be sent to Y11 students and Parents/Carers separately.

Well done to all students for the on-going hard work, patience and maturity that they have shown over the lockdown period to date. A huge thank you to parents and carers for your support in helping your child complete work, in communicating questions or issues and for your lovely messages of support. We are all learning and adapting as we go and the staff and parents and carers have pulled together as a team brilliantly, as always, and make me very proud to be part of this fabulous school.

Firstly, a reminder of our **term dates which are attached at the end of this letter.**

Wednesday 2nd September:

Students return to school on Wednesday 2nd September and, as usual, this will be a staggered start for the first day, to allow us to prepare students well. This will be particularly important this year. Students will be guided by staff on arrival and should go straight to their tutor room:

Y7 come in at 08:45 via the main gate

Y8 come in at 11:15 via main gate

Y9 come in at 11:30 via pavilion gate

Y10 come in at 10:45 via pavilion gate

Y11 come in at 11:30 via the main gate

Y12 come in at 09:05 via pavilion gate

Y13 come in at 12:15 via pavilion gate

Following the recent Government announcement detailing guidelines for the return to school from September, the senior team and the staff have been working extremely hard discussing and devising our plans for September. You will be aware that the new guidelines require all students to return to school full time and with a full broad and balanced curriculum but with a number of measures for schools. We have detailed on-going planning taking place and I would like to share some key points with you so that you can help prepare your son/daughter and we can support them well in transitioning back to school. Of course, please be aware that this is based on the current guidance and situation and things could change at any time but we are very good at adapting!

1. **Day timings:** Whilst some school models include significantly staggered starts and ends to the day, at KES we aim to keep the student day length broadly the same to avoid added difficulties for parents and staff regarding childcare and added issues re transport. Year groups will have specified entry and exit times and points, to try and slightly stagger arrival and dismissal. Please see below and ensure your son/daughter is aware of the arrangements for their particular year group. We understand that it is difficult to time arrivals precisely but we would greatly appreciate your help in trying to stick to these times. Staff will be on hand at the gates to greet and direct students who should then go straight to their tutor rooms on arrival at the following times:

Year:	7	8	9	10	11	12/13
Arrival time:	08:45	08:55	09:05	08:55	08:45	09:05
Dismissal time:	15:15	15:20	15:15	15:20	15:25	15:25
arrive/leave:	main front gate	main front gate	pavil side gate	pavil side gate	main front gate	pavil side gate

2. **'Bubbles':** We are creating year group bubbles and are organising the day to vastly reduce movement around the school and avoid contact between different bubbles. These include slightly staggered start and dismissal times, staggered breaks and designated areas (so year groups do not mix) and Years 7-9 being taught in their tutor groups in one base classroom for the day so the staff move between lessons, not the students.
3. **School site:** We have introduced measures to reduce contacts and maximise distancing including a one way system and classrooms arranged with desks facing forwards. There will be signage and markings to support the new rules and staff will brief students fully in September.
4. **Visitors:** We continue to operate visitors only by prior appointment please. Where possible, please communicate with us by phone or email. Whilst we love seeing you face to face, we have to ensure there is no unnecessary additional contact or added risk to anybody in our community. Please would parents also avoid congregating at the school gates.
5. **Uniform and Equipment:** Students will need to be in full school uniform and they **MUST bring their own equipment.** Clearly passing equipment between people or sharing stationery is to be avoided.

6. **Food:** Our canteen will only be providing cold snacks, drinks and sandwiches for the first two weeks initially and during this time Breakfast Club will not be available. This is to allow us to cater for the increased demands of staggered breaks and cleaning the canteen area between year groups. Cashless cards can be topped up in the usual way using ParentPay. New students will be issued their cards on the 1st day. ParentPay log ins for parents of new students will be sent at the end of August (please see previous communications) and cards can be topped up from then. Free school meal students will be able to buy their chosen food in the same/usual way, using their cards which will be topped up daily with £2.30 (this cannot be rolled over to the next day). If you believe your child may be entitled to a free school meal, please apply online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/>
7. **Cleaning and Hygiene advice:** We have built in significantly increased regularity of cleaning key areas throughout the day. Classrooms will all have sanitising gel and anti-bacterial wipes and students will be encouraged to wipe down their own areas at the start of the lesson. Students will need, as always, to respect and follow seating plans that teachers design. We have additional cleaning/sanitation stations around the site and we will also be asking that students wash their hands regularly and during breaks in line with advice. **Please remind your child of thorough hand washing** with running water and soap or sanitiser before coming into school, after going to the toilet and when arriving back at home. **Students should carry their own supply of tissues at all times.** Please also go through the respiratory hygiene advice with your child, or the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach to managing coughs and sneezes:
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
 - Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use (there are bins with lids in all classrooms)
 - Perform hand hygiene (handwashing or use of sanitiser gel)Doors and windows will be open for good ventilation and a reduced need to touch door and window handles. Please remind your son/daughter to avoid touching surfaces unnecessarily.
8. **Transport:** Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible. Any student using public transport must wear a mask while travelling and will need to bring a plastic bag for storing this and remember to wash their hands after removing their mask.
9. **Clearly any student exhibiting any of the following symptoms must not come in to school under any circumstances:**
 - A high temperature
 - A new continuous cough
 - A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

It is more important than ever that we have up to date contact details. Please alert the school over the summer via the MyEd app or on the first day back, of any changes to these.

As is often the case at the end of a year, we have to say goodbye to a small number of staff who are leaving us this year:

Mr. Ken Gray - Ken has been our site manager for 14 years and retired at Easter. He has given a huge amount to King Ethelbert in so many ways and his calm, patient and dependable support for all the staff and students has helped keep the school running

smoothly behind the scenes. We wish him well for a long and happy and well deserved retirement.

Mrs. Sally Brighty - Sally has worked at KES for 8 years as our attendance officer and her wonderful smile and ability to find ways to support students and families, whatever the need, is remarkable. She will be brilliant in her new role as Early Help worker.

Mrs. Sally Wade - Sally has been at KES for 7 years, first as Head of MFL and then as our SENCO. Sally's energy and passion for finding the best in every child is evident in all that she does. We wish her well in her new role as SENCO at Kent College.

Ms. Vicki People - Vicki has been an inspiring and talented 2i/c in the MFL department. She demands the absolute best from her students and she brings the big wide world to their doorstep through her Spanish and French lessons. Vicki goes on to Dover Girls' Grammar and also to pursue her passion for conservation and the environment.

Miss Lily Dent - Lily completed her IBCP in our 6th form last year and has been working with us as a Teaching Assistant in the SEN department since. She has been a great support to a number of students. She is off to the University of Greenwich to study English Literature and Creative Writing. We are hoping she might be persuaded to go into teaching!

Ms. Alice Malyon - Alice has been a Teaching Assistant with us this last year and brought smiles and enthusiasm with her! She has returned to her roots in Ireland.

Ms. Sophie Cooper - Sophie has worked in our Catering Team for the last year and her smile and chat with the students has always brightened their day. We wish her luck with future endeavours.

Lastly, you will all know our Deputy Headteachers, **Ms Lauren Pasola** and **Mr Tom Sellen** well. Both will be doing wider work across the Coastal Academies Trust with our trust schools and whilst they are not leaving, we will see less of them on site at KES next term. They have each made an enormous contribution to the direction and success of King Ethelbert School to date and to the lives of our students. On a personal level, I am incredibly grateful for their hard work, expertise, good humour and support through good times and challenging ones, and in all that we do at KES. We wish them both luck in their roles and look forward to continued development of work across the trust, sharing good practice and collaborating with colleagues to further develop the education for our wonderful young people across Thanet.

Finally, I would like to pay particular tribute to the staff team at King Ethelbert at the end of a particularly challenging year. Their determination, teamwork, creativity and unwavering commitment to the young people in their care continues to humble me. The entire team of teaching and support staff and their collective contribution and hard work to adapt to the challenges and changes has been remarkable.

I wish you all a restful summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes,



Vicky Willis
Head of School

TERM DATES

SEPTEMBER 2020 – AUGUST 2021



2020		Start	Finish
Autumn	Term 1	Wednesday 2 nd September	Friday 23 rd October
	Term 2	Monday 2 nd November	Friday 18 th December

Staff Development Day: Tuesday 1st September 2020

2021		Start	Finish
Spring	Term 3	Monday 4 th January	Thursday 11 th February
	Term 4	Monday 22 nd February	Thursday 1 st April
	Easter	<i>Friday 2nd April – Monday 5th April</i>	

Staff Development Day: Friday 12th February 2021

2021		Start	Finish
Summer	Term 5	Monday 19 th April	Friday 28 th May
	Term 6	Monday 7 th June	Friday 16 th July
	<i>Bank holidays</i>		<i>3rd May 31st May</i>

Staff Development Days:
Mon 19th July 2021
Tues 20th July 2021
Weds 21st July 2021

Please note:

Staff Development Days:
Tues 1st September 2020
Fri 12th February 2021
Mon 19th July 2021
Tues 20th July 2021
Weds 21st July 2021

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