



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Kingswinford Academy Parent Bulletin
1st - 5th March 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

At long last, we have been allowed to plan for the return of students!

Starting from the 8th of March, Secondary schools can begin a mass testing programme, **after which** we are able to start bringing students into school. As you might imagine there is a lot of planning, risk assessment and coordination involved in testing up to 911 students; not least we need to seek the consent of parents to undertake tests (if you have not done so already, please [complete the consent form](#) here, even if you wish to notify us of your desire to opt out of testing). Once we have given all parents a chance to complete consent forms we can finalise our plans and so ask you to offer your consent before 4.00pm on 1st of March. Whilst we will make every effort to accommodate students where consent is received after this date, *late completion of the consent form may result in a delay to return to school for those students*, so please do complete this as soon as possible.

We plan to complete our first round of testing for all students who consent in the first half of the week beginning 8th March, before all of our students return to school fully in the second half of the week. Students will be requested to attend school along with their form group at specific times through the week for their test, and we need to keep to a strict timetable to complete all tests in the time available. Details and dates for each year group will be issued next week to all parents. Please note that aim to prioritise year 11 students and bring them in to return to lessons as soon as possible after Year 11 testing is complete, before the rest of our students return. Throughout the testing process we will continue to support Vulnerable students and children of Critical workers on site.

To allow our staff to prepare thoroughly for returning students to school, and to coordinate the testing process, which is very labour intensive, there may be a reduction in the number of online live lessons staff

are able to offer from Thursday 4th of March. However, online learning activities will remain for all scheduled lessons, even where live lessons may not be available, and students should continue to follow their full timetable.

Once all students have returned to school, we will continue our mass testing programme so that all students can complete up to three rapid COVID tests in total. The second and third tests will be conducted during the school day, and all students and parents will be informed of the schedule for this programme in advance. Following this initial testing programme, we will provide home testing kits for all students so that you can continue to test your children at home and confirm their test results with the school. In doing so we can dramatically reduce the incidence of COVID-19 on site and keep our community safer. Staff have already been undertaking 2 tests per week throughout this term and will continue to do so throughout the rest of this term and beyond.

As a further effort to ensure our students, staff and community can remain safe, we will be following government guidance and requiring students and staff to wear face coverings when indoors, including within lessons, unless they are exempt from wearing face coverings on medical or other suitable grounds. Please contact your Year Team leader if your child is exempt and you have not already informed the school. In some circumstances (for example strenuous PE lessons or while eating and drinking) students will be requested and/or permitted to remove their masks; students and staff may also be asked to remove masks for the purposes of communication on occasion; and where staff can remain at 2m distance they may be required to remove their mask to support positive communication with students. In all circumstances we will seek to follow government guidance. Full details of the final guidance on the wearing of face coverings in school will be shared with students, staff and parents prior to reopening the school. This additional guidance for schools from the government is expected to be in place until the Easter holidays in the first instance.

I know that there will still be some questions about the process and detail of our plans, and we do intend to share this information as soon as possible, and I thank you in advance for your patience and for supporting our efforts to keep our community safe and provide an excellent education for our young people.

As always, please stay safe and have a good week,



Tom Macdonald
Headteacher

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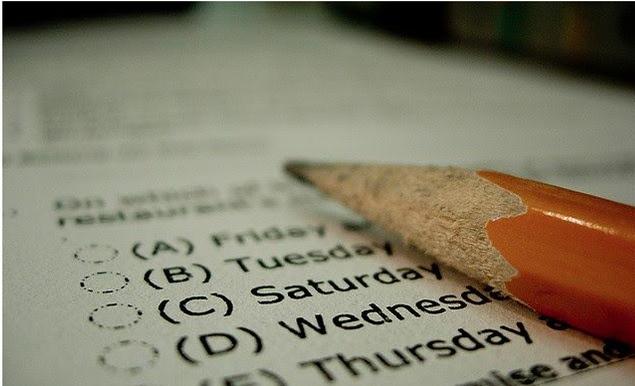
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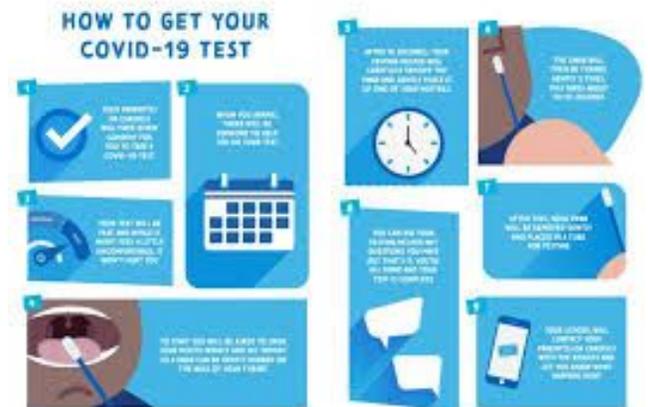
T Macdonald



This week the government have also announced the results of their consultation on Year 11 GCSE and Vocational Qualification consultation. We can, then, start to prepare fully our assessment plans and protocols, however there is still further information, materials and guidance we await from the exam boards through the rest of this term. What is clear is that schools will be able to provide their own assessment of students' grades based on a full range of information and evidence of student performance. This will include assessment through the remainder of this year so it is critically important that Year 11 students continue to study hard on their return to school. More guidance and the press release is available on the Student and Parent Guidance website [here](#). We will share more information and detail with students and parents as it becomes available.

Covid Testing in Schools

L Wise



IMPORTANT APPEAL TO PARENTS AND CARERS Re. CONSENT FORMS FOR MASS TESTING

I would like to direct your attention to the mass testing programme that will run in order for students to take 3 Lateral flow tests over the first two weeks of their return to school.

Thank you to the many parents who have submitted consent forms already. It is crucial that we get consent from all parents and carers so we can protect our school community. Prompt completion would be highly appreciated so we are able to logistically confirm our plans for testing upon return. If you have not yet completed a consent form please click [here](#)

All relevant letters, privacy notices and guides can be found [here](#).

Ask For ANI

S Fletcher



Ask For “Ani” – Domestic Abuse Scheme Dudley Safeguarding team have asked us to highlight the below help/advice.

Victims of Domestic Abuse can go into pharmacies and ask for domestic abuse help. By asking for “Ani” anyone suffering from domestic abuse will be taken into a private room and offered support. “Ani” represents an acronym for Action Need Immediately.

The Brilliant WAT Remote Learner

J Wilkes



The Brilliant WAT Learner page gives both parents and students an interactive guide which supports all our learners and families through remote learning. Please click on the link below to find guidance on learning from home, exercise, well being and much more. This will update weekly:

<https://sites.google.com/windsor.windsoracademy/rust.org.uk/student-and-parent-guidance/asp>

Catch Up Sessions for HPV/DTP and MenACWY Vaccinations

T Millard



Vaccination UK will be in school to run the catch up sessions for the **HPV/DTP** and **MenACWY** vaccinations on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th March 2021.

This only involves students in Year 9 who had their first dose HPV vaccination and a few who, unfortunately, missed their vaccination due to illness/self isolating or lockdown in Years 8 and 10. Most of you have booked your child's appointments now and those who are still yet to book an appointment have been notified by reminder messages. If you still have yet to book your child's vaccination appointment you have until Tuesday 2nd March, then the booking system will be closed.

A message will be sent out the beginning of next week to notify all parents whose child is booked in for their vaccinations with all finalised details of how the days will run and where the nurses will be located. Please can parents make sure they do not enter the school site and if dropping off and waiting for your child, please park in a sensible place taking into consideration our local neighbours.

ParentMail - now live!

T Macdonald



Registration emails have now been sent out and thank you to those parents who have already registered, If you haven't, please register and download the ParentMail app. Additional information is available on our website [here](#) Remaining balances on ipay were also transferred over to ParentMail yesterday. Further information can also be found [by clicking](#)

Young Minds

J Airey



Young Minds are the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. Follow [this](#) link for helpful advice on supporting your child through this pandemic.

PE Notice

S Holder

Students in school for PE during lockdown - Students should be in **full school uniform**, they are **only required to bring in trainers** for these sessions. Students should not wear PE kit or their own tracksuits, school uniform and trainers only. Many thanks for your support with this.

Elevate Study Skills Parent Webinars

L Palmer

I wanted to remind you about the next Study Skills Parent Webinar available from Elevate which is next **Tuesday 2nd March** and to also inform you about the previous webinar they delivered.

Our next webinar is going to be focused on how students can effectively prepare for assessments this year and the details are below:

Effective Preparation for Assessments

Date: Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Time: 6:00 – 7:00pm

Registration link:

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

This webinar will be suitable for parents of Years 7 through to 13 as it shares guidance on preparing for any form of assessments and internal exams.

Parents can sign up for any or all of the term's webinar series at the registration link above.

The recording for the previous webinar on Stress and Wellbeing is available to be watched back on this link:

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/replay>. You can also download a summary sheet of the main points [her](#)



Attention all parents!

Pick up school messages online or on the mobile app!

**FREE
DOWNLOAD**

"Sometimes it can be challenging to juggle school, work, other children, house work and commitments and know what is going on and keep in tune with the latest news and events at school. This app is a godsend!"



Get started...

- 1. Register with ParentMail**
- 2. Download the App & login**
- 3. Pick up school messages on the go**



Please note: You will need to register online on the ParentMail website to use the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message.

Notices from Dudley Local Authority

[Download the covid app](#) today



Keep up to date with [latest coronavirus advice](#) and
how it affects council services

Find out the latest [government guidance](#)