



12th May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Following on from the Prime Minister's [statement](#) about the continued easing of restrictions on Monday, I am writing to share our plans for the coming weeks with you. The updated guidance that has been issued to schools can be found [here](#).

We have reviewed our risk assessment in light of the updated guidance and we will continue to use the key control measures to minimise risk of any transmission of infection within the school setting.

Prevention

1. We are minimising contact with individuals who have been asked to self-isolate by ensuring that they follow Government guidance and do not attend school. This applies to anyone who accesses the school site.
2. We are encouraging students and staff to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual. Hand sanitiser is provided at every entrance and in every classroom for this purpose.
3. We are ensuring good respiratory hygiene by encouraging the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Students are expected to bring tissues into school as part of their personal equipment and bins are provided in every room.
4. We have maintained enhanced cleaning at the Academy, including cleaning regularly touched surfaces more often.
5. We have maintained staggered breaks and lunches to minimise contact across key stages.
6. We have ventilation plans across the school and for each room, ensuring that occupied spaces are well ventilated.
7. Students and staff are asked to take part in asymptomatic testing and report results via School Screener twice per week.

Response to infection

1. We engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
2. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 are reported to the wider school community and to Public Health. By following the Local Health Protection Team advice for all confirmed cases, we are ensuring that the latest guidance is always adhered to and that any outbreaks are contained.

Face coverings

It is testament to the resilience of our students that they have adjusted well to the requirement of wearing face coverings in classrooms since their return in March.

The [guidance on face coverings](#) in education has been amended to reflect that, from 17th May, face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas.

Therefore, from Monday 17th May, we are no longer expecting students to wear face coverings in school. As per the updated guidance, face coverings should still be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible.

Importantly, the guidance also says that *“The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.”* We will continue to monitor cases at school and within the local community, taking advice from Public Health where appropriate and will inform you if we need to reintroduce face coverings in response to changes to the situation.

Importantly, we understand that some students may feel nervous about the easing of this restriction. If your child wishes to continue to wear their face covering for the remainder of this term, then we will support this.

Please can I take this opportunity to thank you and your children for your co-operation in this matter over recent months. I am certainly looking forward to seeing smiling faces around the school once more.

Educational visits

We are pleased that the updated guidance allows for educational visits to resume and we are working closely with Pharos, our educational visits partner, to consider how visits can be safely planned over the forthcoming months. We will, of course, keep you informed.

Wider curricular activity

Wider curricular activities have now resumed and it has been lovely to see students engaging with activities again. We will continue to plan for wider curricular activities, whilst ensuring that the system of controls continues to minimise any risk.

Finally

I am looking forward to the future with positivity and am pleased to be able to start planning ahead for the new academic year. We are considering which aspects of our changed provision have been effective and which we are going to keep as our new ‘normal’. As these plans develop, I will write again with further detail about the academic year ahead.

In the meantime, thank you so much for all you have done to support your children and the school community, we feel very proud of way students have responded to the various changes with resilience, good humour and kindness.

As always, if you have any queries, please do contact us at office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk so that the most appropriate person can respond to you.

Yours sincerely



Darren Turner
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Tudor Grange Academies Trust