



King's Group
Academies



King's Academy
Prospect

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Headteacher: Mr D Littlemore

2nd January 2022

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a enjoyable festive season and wishing you a very happy new year. I'd like to remind you of the arrangements for the start of term, including some updated government guidance.

Masks

You may have seen the Department for Education announcement this morning that masks will once again be worn by all students and staff in classrooms, as well as all communal areas, from the start of term. Please ensure that your child has a supply of masks for their own use; we have a very limited number in school. If your child has a genuine mask exemption, please email Mrs Clyne and we will issue a Mask Pass (jclyne@prospect.reading.sch.uk). In line with the government's Plan B guidance, this will be reviewed on Wednesday 26th January.

Lateral Flow Testing

All students will be asked to complete a lateral flow test in school before the start of term. If you have not already done so, please complete the consent form [lateral flow consent form](#). Lateral flow testing will take place in the Lower School Hall at the following times; please use the Honey End Lane entrance only. We would strongly advise (if you are able) all students to take a lateral flow test the day before they are tested in school. Any students who test positive via a LFT should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Tuesday 4th January:

Year 11: 1-2pm

Year 12/13: 2- 3pm

Wednesday 5th January

Year 7: 9-10am

Year 8: 10-11am

Year 9: 11am-12pm

Year 10: 12.45 – 1.45pm

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Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in lateral flow testing on-site or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

We are aware of the difficulties that there have been in obtaining LFTs in recent weeks; we are expecting a delivery from the DfE to enable students to continue to test twice weekly which will be handed out to students as soon as they are available.

Self-Isolation Rules

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, students may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take lateral flow tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

This will be held under review pending direct guidance from the Department for Education.

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Academic Review Day – Tuesday 4th January

Appointments will be with either your child's form tutor or Head of Progress. Please contact Mrs Clyne if you need help booking an appointment.

Work/resources will be set via MS Teams for students in Years 7-10 and 12/13 – please note these will not be live lessons.

For Year 11, there will be live revision sessions in English, Maths and Science. Students will be invited via MS Teams by the Heads of Core.

Year 11/13 mock exams – Wednesday 5th January

The mock exam timetable will start on Wednesday 5th January as planned; students should attend for their examination only. Year 11s should be in uniform.

9.00	Computing	Sports Hall	11
9.00	Design & Technology	Sports Hall	11
11.40	French (L&R)	D Block	11
11.40	German (L&R)	D Block	11
11.50	Accounting	Sports Hall	13
11.50	Chemistry	Sports Hall	13
11.50	French	Sports Hall	13

Work/resources will be set via MS Teams for students in Years 7-10 and 12 – please note these will not be live lessons.

Start of Term

Term starts for all students at **8.25am** on **Thursday 6th January**. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time wearing the correct uniform (including their lanyard and name badge) and with the equipment necessary for the school day. Students who are not correctly dressed may be asked to return home for the right uniform items; we will not be lending any items of equipment. Hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial spray/wipes will continue to be available in every classroom and around the school.

Contingency Plans

Like much of the public sector, we have been hard hit by staff shortages due to high numbers of staff testing positive for COVID-19. The government has asked retired and former teachers to return to the classroom where possible, but we do anticipate some level of disruption over the next term. As a last resort, we may have to send whole year groups home to be taught remotely; we will endeavour to do this as little as possible. I am sure you will understand that we will need to prioritise the students that have public examinations this summer. We will do our very best to make any decisions about sending year groups home by 4pm the day before, but on occasions may have to make decisions at very short notice in the morning.

Communication

From the start of the new term, our main form of communication will be via the ClassCharts App, so please ensure that you have downloaded this: [ClassCharts Parents – Apps on Google Play](#) or [ClassCharts Parents on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#). We will no longer be sending text messages and will no longer be sending letters via email after the end of this month.

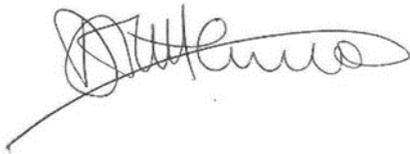
All letters will also be saved on our website and we will also use Twitter [King's Academy Prospect \(@prospectschool\)](#) / [Twitter](#) and Instagram [King's Academy Prospect \(@prospectschoolreading\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#) where appropriate.

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Finally, we were delighted to hear on the last day of term that my PA, Mrs Davis and her husband welcomed their new baby son, nearly two weeks early! Our congratulations to them both! Whilst Mrs Davis is on maternity leave, Mrs Bater will be joining King's Academy Prospect as my new PA and Office Manager and I sure you will join me in welcoming her to the school.

Despite the continued uncertainty surrounding COVID, I am very much looking forward to the start of the new term and all the challenges and successes that this will bring.

With my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Littlemore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D Littlemore
Headteacher