



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Kingswinford Academy Parent Bulletin
4th - 8th January 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of this term and get set for a chance, at long last, to come together as families and take a break from both school and work, I would like to thank you for the patience and perseverance you have shown in supporting our school to remain open for our students.

At times through this term it has seemed that cases of COVID have struck almost daily in our community, however I know through our work with a wealth of other schools, that Kingswinford has managed to stay some way below the number of cases that we have seen both locally and nationally. That is in large part thanks to your vigilance and action when your children have shown symptoms in keeping them at home and organising tests rapidly. Next term will see the recently announced introduction of 'lateral flow testing' in schools. Whilst the details of how students and staff can opt into this programme are yet to be released from the government, it is certain that, following a period of introduction, this will allow more students and staff to remain on site safely for more of the time and so is certainly welcome. As this was announced late this week and details will not be released to schools until next week, we cannot offer full information at this point. However, we are assured that this is a voluntary testing process conducted by trained individuals on the school site.

We are, following the announcements yesterday, making some significant changes to the arrangements for the start of next term:

- The school will be **closed to ALL students on Monday 4th of January** - we will use this day to plan the extensive logistics required for the testing process

- **Year 11** The school will be open to year 11 students from Tuesday 5th of January with lessons running as normal. School will start at the usual time for year 11 on Tuesday.
- **Years 7,8,9,10** Remote learning for every lesson will be available for all of year 7,8,9 and 10 from Tuesday 5th January. Those year groups will be able to return to school from the 11th of January as normal and at the usual times.
- Arrangements for **Free School Meals** will be made for all of those who are eligible in years 7-10, either via a voucher system or via collection of hampers from the school site (to be confirmed). This will cover the period 4th - 8th January inclusive
- There will be **Emergency on site provision** for children of Critical Workers and selected Vulnerable students. Due to the nature of operations on site, however, this must be limited to emergency provision only and we ask that you make every effort to support your child at home if you are a critical worker. If this is not possible, please contact the school from 10.00am by phone on Monday 4th January so that we can discuss the situation and, if necessary, arrange emergency support.
- As we are conducting remote learning for the first week of school, we will contact you at the beginning of term to assess whether or not you require support via one of the small number of remaining **Chromebooks** we have in school. Please make every effort to provide access to a device (even a phone would support much of the learning) for your child throughout the school day during the first week of term. Should you require such a device, please contact the school from 10am on Monday 4th January by phone.

By making use of the first day to properly prepare for this late change to school practice, we are able to ensure that students will be well supported and we can make effective arrangements to meet the government's plans for delivery of lateral flow tests to students and staff. Thank you for your understanding and support, and should you wish to volunteer to support the testing programme in school, especially if you have a medical or first aid background, please contact the school via our email address and we will speak with you in the new term to discuss how you might be able to support us.

Thank you again for your support through this difficult year. I know that many of you have shared your gratitude in writing for the enormous efforts our staff have put in to ensure that we can continue to offer an excellent education for your children - I cannot express how much it means to our staff when we receive emails and notes of support and thanks.

I do wish you all the very best Christmas and hope that your families can stay safe throughout the break to enjoy some quality time together.

Kind regards



Tom Macdonald
Headteacher

Contents

School Track and Trace arrangements during XMas

Foodbank Project

Calendar

Key Information

Notices from Dudley Local Authority

School Track and Trace arrangements during Christmas Break

Thank you all for your support through this term, and this week in particular, in our efforts to ensure that our students and community stay safe. Through your efforts, we hope that students, staff and their families will be able to celebrate Christmas with their families.

However, we retain a duty to conduct track and trace operations up until Christmas to ensure we can notify you of any new cases within our community that may require students or staff to self isolate. With this in mind, we would ask that you communicate with us as soon as possible after the end of this term if your child develops one of the three key symptoms of COVID-19:

- A persistent cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

Or if they receive a positive test result for COVID-19.

The best method of communication is via email to

covid@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

but you can also contact us at the usual 'info@' email address. Please note, however, the phones will not necessarily be active as the school is closed throughout much of the Christmas Break. We will then ask you to complete a contact form which can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/KFordCOVID>

This will provide the school with much of the information needed to support you and other families who may be affected.

We will text reminders of this information to all parents through the first few days of the holidays and apologise in advance for disturbing the break.

If your child does develop these symptoms, you should arrange a COVID test as soon as possible, and please let us know via the email address above. If we become aware that your child may have come into contact with COVID 19 on the school site we will contact you via email and text message to inform you and advise you of any requirement to self isolate in accordance with Public Health England guidelines and national legislation. Please do check your email address for any communications.

Foodbank Project

J Wilkes



This Winter, our Community Ambassadors have supported local families through their Foodbank project. A huge thank you to all parents, wider family and students who have contributed to the substantial donation made on Thursday afternoon. The Black Country Foodbank is an excellent organisation which is supporting those in our local community at such a crucial time.

We look forward to making further donations in the future.



Calendar

Week Beginning 4th January 2021

Week 2

Monday 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term starts 4th January - Logistical Planning Day • School Closed to All Students
Tuesday 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11, Vulnerable and Critical Worker students in school • Year 7,8,9,10 - Remote Learning
Wednesday 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11, Vulnerable and Critical Worker students in school • Year 7,8,9,10 - Remote Learning
Thursday 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11, Vulnerable and Critical Worker students in school • Year 7,8,9,10 - Remote Learning
Friday 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11, Vulnerable and Critical Worker students in school • Year 7,8,9,10 - Remote Learning

Week Beginning 11th January 2021

Week 1

Monday 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Year groups return to school
Tuesday 12th	
Wednesday 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 GCSE dancers workshop with a professional artist from Autin Dance Theatre in the school hall.
Thursday 14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8 Parents Evening (tbc)
Friday 15th	
Advance notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd dose HPV Y9 (missed due to lockdown) 20th January • Dance Careers Event - Year 10 (Taster Workshops) Main Hall all day 22nd January • School closed to students (Disaggregated day for staff) 29th January

Key Information

- **Attendance** : There are now two online forms on our website for parents to use to report an absence and request a leave of absence.
<https://kingswinfordacademy.org.uk/school-life/essential-information/attendance/>
If you cannot get through to Reception to report an absence due to lines being busy, you can also **text 01384 686047** to report the absence.
- **Onsite Meetings**: Please note that we seek to avoid all unessential onsite meetings. Meetings cannot take place without a prior appointment and agreement as rooms need to be prepared and thoroughly cleaned before and afterwards. Where meetings do take place with visitors - all parties must wear face coverings unless exempt.
- **Dudley's Early Help** service is about taking action early to provide support for children, young people and their families who may be facing some challenges. If any of our families feel that this service could help them or would like to know more please contact Mrs Fletcher.
- **Cold and Wet Weather** - it is important that students come to school with the correct clothing:
 - On PE days students should wear their blazer for wearing in class as well as a suitable coat to keep warm and dry at break and lunchtime
 - Students should wear a coat to school to keep them warm and dry
 - Hoodies are **never** permitted on site and will be removed from students.
- **Parking for School** : Can I remind parents to take care when parking near the school site. Thank you to all of you who park away from the school site, but please ensure that you always avoid dropping off and picking up from the Yellow zig-zag lines outside school and from in front of dropped curbs outside our neighbours homes. Please do not be offended when you are asked to move on by our staff - we need to keep roads as clear as possible to ensure student safety

Notices from Dudley Local Authority

[Download the covid app](#) today

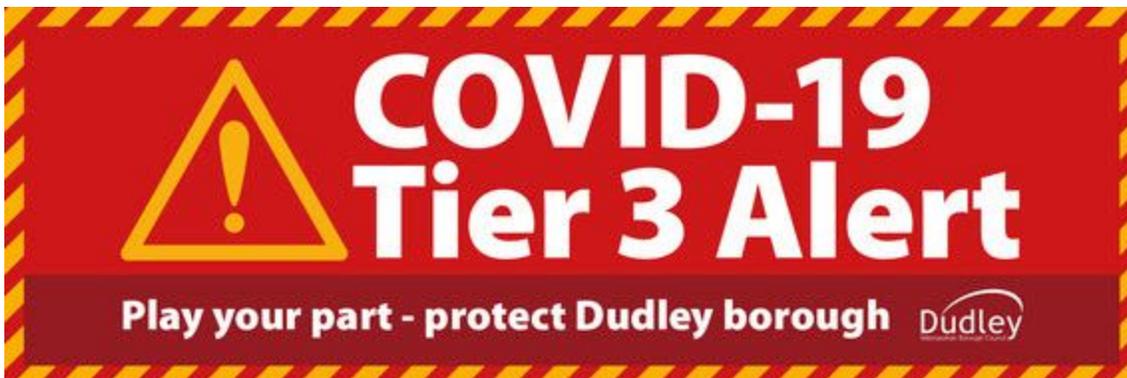


Keep up to date with [latest coronavirus advice](#) and

how it affects council services

Find out the latest [government guidance](#)

Covid-19 Tier 3 Alert



Play your part, protect Dudley borough

Dudley borough has very high COVID-19 infection rates and has now been placed in the highest tier (Tier 3). Continue playing your part and follow the restrictions. Together we can reduce infection rates and ensure our borough moves into a lower tier as swiftly as possible.

No mixing households indoors, in any setting

-Only meet others in some outdoor

public spaces such as parks (6 max)

-No mixing households in private gardens

-Reduce journeys and avoid travel outside the local area

[find out more](#)

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grant



The grant is for food and essential supplies to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to financial hardship and/or hardship caused by COVID-19. This scheme is temporary.

The maximum amount you can be awarded is £300 and you must live in Dudley borough.

[find out more](#)



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Guidance for government rules regarding self isolation



Detailed guidance regarding self isolation periods and households can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please support us by ensuring that all isolation periods are adhered to and do not allow your child to attend school if they have any of the following:

- A continuous cough
- High temperature 38c or above
- Loss of taste or smell

