



# Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Kingswinford Academy Parent Bulletin  
September 5th - 9th October 2020



## Dear Parent/Carer

As this new 'COVID' way of working embeds in schools and we all adjust to our 'new normal', we continue to focus, gladly, on the more typical events of school life. At this time of year we see a growing focus for Year 11 students on college applications, exam preparation and Mock exams; for Year 7 students we move towards the transition evening events; for year 6 students in primary school it is consideration of which school they want to attend next year.

Kingswinford is no exception to this as we see the launch of our new Website and Virtual Open Evening; our Achieve Excellence programme of exam preparation has started; our Year 7 transition and settling in evening takes place (virtually!) next week; and so we all begin to feel some normality returning to life.

Indeed, today I have spent part of today making plans (already!) for our Remembrance Day and Christmas Carol Services - whilst much of this might be virtual or socially distanced, we can still bring the importance of these events to our young people and commemorate and celebrate together in a new way. The way forward seems brighter and I wish you all a wonderful and restful (despite the rain!) weekend

Yours faithfully

**Tom Macdonald**  
Headteacher

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# Kingswinford Virtual Open Evening is Live!



In these strange times all schools are looking for new ways to work with our communities safely. At Kingswinford we have always felt that safeguarding must be our first and most important priority, and so we have, with deep regret, cancelled our 'Open Evening' and 'Tours and Talks' as we believe that bringing visitors onto the site at the present time risks increasing the spread of Coronavirus within our community. Whilst offering Year 6 parents and students an opportunity to get to know our wonderful school is tremendously important; this cannot be at the expense of safety.

However, we have developed a wealth of online resources to try and bring the best of Kingswinford Academy to the internet and share the positivity, success and friendliness of our school to our future students. A huge thank you to all parents for the wonderful testimonials you offered - we have only been able to share a fairly small number of them and we are very grateful to you for your kind words! Thank you to, for the honest feedback we received amongst the testimonials - we do pay close attention to all of your comments and seek to address any concerns.

Please help our efforts to bring the benefits of Kingswinford Academy to more students in our area - we always seek to take as many students as we can and so anyone who is interested in coming to Kingswinford should always seek to put us down as first choice - do spread the word!

# Face Masks in Schools



Public Health England and the Department for Education are quite clear in their guidance at the moment that face masks are not appropriate in the classroom. Education relies on communication and face masks are a barrier to this and we are compliant with the national advice and guidance and do not permit face masks in the classroom without very specific medical guidance.

That being said, we feel strongly that masks are a strong protection in those environments outside of the classroom where the likelihood of coming into contact with others might increase. Whilst we encourage social distancing in the school and keep students outdoors as much as possible during their free time - we have less influence over their social distancing on their journey to and from school. For this reason we **strongly recommend** that students wear appropriate masks on their journey to and from school as well as during break and lunch in school.

## iPads for Learning

L Palmer



Our new programme to move towards a more digital learning environment begins in earnest on Monday - Year 7 parents and students will be the first to move on to our 'iPads for Learning' programme as the registration portal opens on Monday.

This programme is tremendously exciting and is the first step in ensuring all of our students are able to access the incredible opportunities that a fully digital learning environment can offer.

If your child is in Year 7, please look out for the letter guiding you to the portal to register so that you can secure your iPad as soon as possible!

If you were not able to access the webinar and see the presentation - you can watch the recording [here](#).

## Wet Weather

S Fletcher



Kingswinford, as a traditional school building, has limited internal spaces for students to shelter from the rain. When the weather becomes extreme we do open up the classrooms for students to shelter and eat their lunch (we call this arrangement 'Wet Break'), but seek to avoid this where possible so that students get a chance to see friends, socialise and have a proper break from the classroom.

As the weather turns, it is likely that we will need to call more and more 'Wet Breaks'. That being said students will still need to travel around the site externally and travel too and from school.

Please, then, ensure that your child attends school with a suitable, fully waterproof coat on days when rain is expected (or even just as a precaution!).

## Year 11 'Achieve Excellence'

S Wilkinson



Students today received a letter with a list of after school support sessions that are on offer to Year 11 from 3.20-4pm every day.

Students can attend any of these sessions if they feel they would benefit by doing additional revision work in that subject.

Some students have been identified as requiring additional support to help them achieve success next summer and they have been requested by their teachers to attend sessions.

Requests by teachers to individual students are on the letter that students received today.

The sessions we offer each day are:

- **Monday** – additional Maths sessions
- **Tuesday** - additional English sessions
- **Wednesday** - additional Science sessions
- **Thursday** - additional Geography, History, RE, French and Spanish sessions
- **Friday** - additional Options subjects sessions

Please complete the google form that has been sent to confirm your permission.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Bikes

J Wilkes



Whilst we applaud students (and staff!) who choose to cycle to work, we strongly encourage all of our community to act safely on bikes. We ask parents to support students in wearing helmets; using lights and reflective clothing; and cycling safely. Key amongst this is taking care whilst cycling and avoiding cycling on the pavement - especially where it is busy. If your child cycles too and from school, please discuss road safety with them, as we continue to do.

E-Safety  
S Fletcher



As our world and certainly our children's world become more digital it is really important to educate our young people on using their devices safely. I have uploaded a guide to our website, '[Online safety tips for parents](#)', which will help you to make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices.

New Website!  
T Macdonald



Our new website has landed! For many months we have been working behind the scenes to create a stronger and more informative website and this has now been released! Do check it out [here](#)!

# Calendar

## Week Beginning 5th September Timetable Week 2

Monday 5th	
Tuesday 6th	
Wednesday 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 7 transition / settling in evening 4pm - 5:30pm</li></ul>
Thursday 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 7 transition / settling in evening 4pm - 5:30pm</li></ul>
Friday 9th	

## Week Beginning 12th October Timetable Week 1

Monday 12th	
Tuesday 13th	
Wednesday 14th	
Thursday 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Careers Evening 5pm - 7:30pm (Virtual) TBC</li></ul>
Friday 16th	
Advance notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LAB meeting 6.00 pm 19th October</li><li>• Break Up Half Term 23rd October</li><li>• Year 11 Mocks 2nd November - 13th November</li></ul>

## Dudley Council Covid-19 Guidance



Given the continued increase in cases of coronavirus across the authority, Dudley Council is strongly advising staff, parents/carers and visitors to wear face coverings in public areas of school. Some schools are doing this in our neighbouring boroughs.

This means:

### **Parents/carers are asked to wear face coverings:**

- On the school site when dropping off and picking up children
- If they need to access the main school reception area for any reason
- If for any reason they need to access a classroom or corridors in school

### **Staff:**

- In the playground when parents/carers are dropping off or collecting children (where applicable)

### **Other visitors:**

- When accessing the main reception
- If they are unable to keep a safe 2 metre distance from other people when working on site

## 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



## Information from Dudley Local Authority



[Download Leaflet here](#)

Play your part, protect Dudley borough - help us avoid a local lockdown!

Staying alert remains critical!

Got symptoms?

Get tested. Protect your friends and family. Do not leave home.

Visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 for a test.

Visit Dudley Council's website for more information.



Play your part, protect Dudley borough - help us avoid a local lockdown!

Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus can get a FREE test.

If you develop symptoms: new persistent cough, fever or a change in, or loss of, your sense of smell or taste - you need to do two things:

- 1) You and anyone in your household must immediately self-isolate until you receive the results of your test.
- 2) You need to order a test immediately. You can do this online at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119.

If your test is positive you must continue to self-isolate for 10 days from when your symptoms started. Anyone in your household must continue to self-isolate for a total of 14 days. If your test is negative you and everyone in your household no longer needs to self-isolate. However, if you do still feel unwell

you should remain at home until you feel better.

Coronavirus hasn't gone away, we all need to help control the virus and save lives.



- Regular hand washing is still vital
- Keep a safe distance from others (two metres where possible)
- Continue to limit your contact with other people
- Wear face coverings to protect yourself and others

A promotional banner for returning to school safely. It features the HM Government logo, the NHS logo, and the text "Get back to school safely." and "Find out more about returning to school safely at gov.uk/backtoschool". There is also a box that says "STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES". The background shows a group of children in school uniforms, one on a bicycle, and a girl wearing a face mask.

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit [Dudley Council's website](#) for useful back to school information and practical guidance.