



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

Kingswinford Academy Parent Bulletin
7th - 11th December 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

After what seems an age, December and Advent have arrived! Whilst we must all stay vigilant and safe whilst the spectre of COVID-19 hangs over us, at least there is some brightness coming in the form of a vaccine; Christmas and some time to spend with family over the coming weeks. I hope we can all begin to look forward and hope for a brighter 2021!

Having said that, my main message this week is to protect Christmas for our children and each other: I would ask that we are especially cautious and take particular precautions over the next two weeks - in school and out - to make sure that we can control the COVID-19 virus and help to make sure we are all able to see families celebrate a little at Christmas. Please do follow the guidance on self isolation: if your child, or anyone in your household, shows any of the three symptoms (Persistent cough, Temperature, Loss of Taste or Smell) please do not allow your child to come into school and stay at home. If you are in any doubts over whether or not to send your child into school, please call first to check so that we can advise you and avoid putting others at risk. Please, too, support your child in wearing a face mask and social distancing both in and out of school, so that we can all enjoy a much needed Christmas break.

Kind regards

Tom Macdonald

Headteacher

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COVID-19 Update



We recognise that this is a challenging time for all, but we are dependent on working together to ensure that we can continue to safeguard our community. We would like to remind you of a few important points that will greatly support us in keeping our community safe.

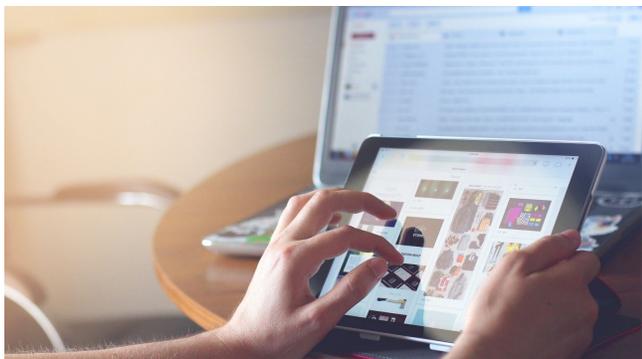
1. **Masks** - Please ensure your child attends school with a **clean** mask each day. If they are coming with a disposable mask they should bring a spare. Students who do not bring in a mask are increasing the risk of infection for our community and will be subject to sanction from this point [unless exempt].
2. **When to Self Isolate** - we recognise that there are different circumstances in different situations but please remember that our best method of preventing the spread of infection is to make sure those exposed to the virus remain at home and self isolate. To support please consider the following:
 - a. **Symptoms and Tests** - If anyone in your household, including members of your support bubble, has symptoms or is awaiting test results - ***your child must self isolate***
 - b. **Contact with COVID-19 Positive Individuals** - ONLY those who have had contact need to self isolate - ***your child should only self isolate if they themselves have been in contact***
 - c. **Alerted by Track and Trace app** - Only adults who are identified along with children under 16 if they were exposed at the same time should self isolate.

In all cases contact the school to confirm self isolation timescales. If you are in any doubt, **please keep your child at home until you have discussed the situation with the school**

3. **Social Distancing** - we do encourage students to limit their social group, and keep their distance and keep this consistent both in and out of school. Whilst socialising

iPad Unboxing

T Macdonald



The iPads are coming! Following some direct conversations with Apple headquarters, the Trust has managed to bring forward the delivery date for our iPads! Whilst there are national priorities for NHS and Social Care, Apple have been able to arrange a further shipment of iPads so that our students will receive theirs before Christmas (fingers crossed - it may be this week! If you have a child in Year 7, please keep an eye on your email for further updates through the week!

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

J Wilkes



Christmas Jumper Day is on the 11th December. We would love to see all of our students competing against each other to win the best jumper award on the day. It would be even better if they could beat the efforts of Mr Macdonald who often (always...) wins the staff prize!

Blessing Interview

D Cotterill



We have received a huge number of potential interview questions and interviewees for our interview with the Voice winner, Blessing Chitapa. Thank you to all of our students taking part - the chosen students will be informed early this week so that they can record a video interview question for Blessing!

Design a Christmas Card Competition

P Guest



Well done to Thomas Young in Y8 for the fabulous winning design of our school Christmas Card this year. The cards will be circulated to all of our stakeholders and Headteachers across Dudley Local Authority. Superb!

Calendar

Week Beginning 7th December Week 2

Monday 7th	
Tuesday 8th	
Wednesday 9th	
Thursday 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christmas Dance Sharing (TBC)
Friday 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christmas Jumper Day ● Dance Competition/Virtual Dance Production - from 6pm

Week Beginning 14th December Week 1

Monday 14th	
Tuesday 15th	
Wednesday 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elevate Sessions Time Management Year 11 ● Yr 11 Parents Evening (Virtual) 3:30pm-6:00pm
Thursday 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yr 11 Parents Evening (Virtual) 3:30pm-6:00pm
Friday 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Break up - Term Ends
Advance notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● iPad Unboxing Day - date tbc ● Term starts 4th January 2021 ● Year 8 Parents Evening 14th January (details tbc)

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
- **iPads for Learning** We are all so excited about the forthcoming delivery of iPads for our Year 7 students. Unfortunately, there is still an international and national shortage of devices and the NHS and Social Care services are still the priority.
We had hoped to 'unbox' our devices later this week, but will be delayed - but still expect to receive the devices before Christmas and look forward to a special day of opening and engaging with our new iPads!
For those who have ordered a new iPad, please see the letters emailed last week and on the website for more information.

Notices from Dudley Local Authority

[Download the covid app](#) today

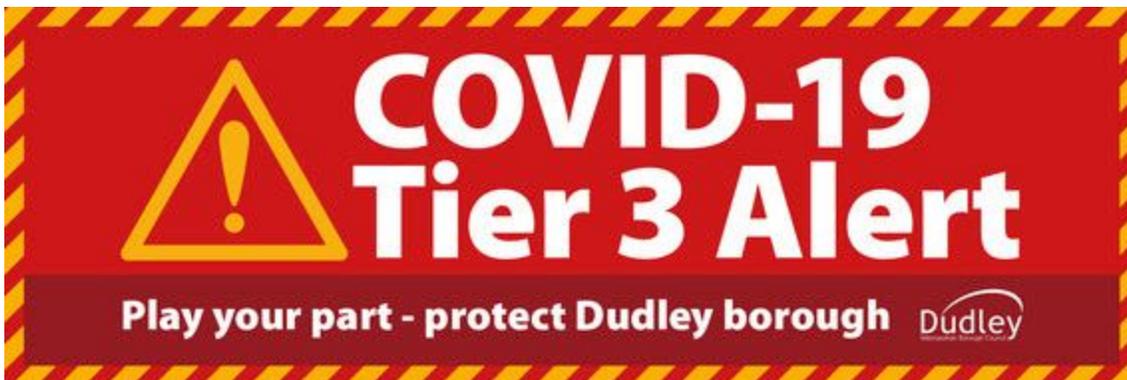


Keep up to date with [latest coronavirus advice](#) and

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

