



Knox Academy

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Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Return to Knox Academy – Tuesday 20 April 2021

It is nice to be able to communicate exceptionally positive news at the end of a long and challenging term for staff, pupils and parents alike. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our young people back to full-time schooling on Tuesday 20 April 2021, following the Easter break. The First Minister will confirm this on Tuesday 6 April 2021 based on the continued suppression of the virus. The full return to school will be welcome news to all of our school community, and for once, during this pandemic, it finally feels like we are getting back to some level of normality that will be longer lasting with the reduced transmission rates and the roll out of the vaccine. I am sure, as I said at Parent Council last week, we are all glad to see school/education return to our young people's lives, and that, coupled with the anticipation of being able to see our families and friends again, life is feeling much more positive again. The improving weather and longer days will, I am sure, also help to support everyone's mental health and wellbeing.

When pupils return to school, they will follow their 'normal' school timetables that they followed between August and December last year. If anyone has forgotten their timetable, that is not a problem, and they should contact their Pupil Support Leader (through their EduBuzz email) between now and 1 April so we can arrange to get this to them. The main change to the mitigations in place at school is there will no longer be 2M physical distancing in classrooms. We will however set up our classrooms to give as much space between desks as possible to support the reduction in transmission. Other safety measures and requests are bullet pointed below:

Safety measures to remain in place:

- If your young person was previously shielding or has a health condition, please contact Mr Illingworth sillingworth@knox.elcschool.org.uk to ensure we have an agreed risk assessment to support their return to school
- Pupils should wear school uniform so they are easily identifiable. They should also bring a cosy fleece/outdoor jacket to put on should they feel cold in class and for outdoor learning/breaks/lunches. Support with uniform can be found [here](#). No hooded tops please (as per our uniform policy)
- Face coverings for staff and all S1-S6 pupils (unless exempt). These are to be worn in class, corridors and social areas but may be removed for eating and drinking
- Classrooms as physically distanced as possible and all have seating plans for track and trace purposes
- Hand sanitising on entry and exit to school and on entry/exit to all classrooms
- Pupils clean their work stations on arrival and departure from classrooms
- One way system in corridors (with the exception of a few areas that are lined off for two way travel)
- Individual toilets – accessed as required by pupils during class time (communal toilets at the dining room and social area to be open at break and lunch). Hand washing facilities are also available here
- Enhanced cleaning throughout the day and electrostatic fogging once a month
- Pupils leave the school by the nearest exit at the end of the day to reduce crowding



- [Lateral Flow Device](#) (LFD) test kits available for those consenting to be part of the programme (voluntary but recommended). This e-consent form can be found [here](#) for those who still wish to participate in this. If a young person tests positive using an LFD test kit they should self-isolate and book a [PCR test](#). The members of the household should also self-isolate until the result of the test is confirmed as negative. If it is positive, all household members should now be tested.
- Identified wet weather areas for pupils at break and lunch – separate year groups
- Pupil should arrive from 8.15 onwards to give a 15 minute arrival window and avoid gathering in groups – they should go straight to their registration class. If they are late in arriving they should sign in at the office.
- Pupils on home/school transport must wear face coverings at all times on this (unless exempt). There will be no physical distancing on home/school transport.
- There will be a smaller selection of food available at breaks and lunch in our Food Court and as best as possible pupils should bring something for their break and also a packed lunch. Free school meals will be available at the Food Court.
- There will be no physical distancing measures on Home/school transport
- Parents/carers are not able to come into school during the Covid-19 recovery and all communications must be via email or telephone.

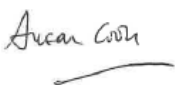
Requests:

- Any young person showing symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend school and should self-isolate and book a test. If they show symptoms whilst at school we have a self-isolation room and parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect them and to book a test. The room they were in will be fogged and the track and trace process for any close contacts will be actioned.
- Pupils should bring their own stationery to avoid sharing and a Chromebook or laptop if they have one available (please do not feel the need to purchase one if you don't have one)
- Pupils should bring a full water bottle – this can be topped up during the day at our water dispensers
- Pupils should ideally bring a packed lunch which can be eaten outside if dry. Pupils will be asked to have break and lunch outside if dry to stretch their legs and also to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 as evidence shows that transmission is reduced outdoors. Wet weather, year group areas, will be provided when required.

I would like to finish by expressing my gratitude to all our young people for their tenacity, enthusiasm and the resilience they have demonstrated in their ability to cope with the many 'bumps in the road' throughout the last year. A huge 'thank you' to parents/carers and your ability to juggle your jobs, support remote and blended learning and parent all at the same time – no mean feat! Last but not least, a heartfelt thanks to our school staff and partners, who have worked tirelessly to try to get it right for all of our young people at the school. With such a strong community I am excited about how we will continue to develop our school to ensure the best outcomes for all our young people now and over the coming years.

From all at Knox Academy, have a fantastic Easter break and here's hoping the weather looks favourably on us all. We will look forward to seeing all of our young people back at school on Tuesday 20 April at 8.30am – with lots of smiles and energy.

Best wishes



Sue Cook