

25 February 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Following the removal of enforceable COVID restrictions in the UK, I wanted to confirm how this will impact at Weald of Kent.

### **COVID testing and Isolation**

- Students (and staff) are no longer expected to take an LFT test twice weekly, these will no longer be provided.
- Students (and staff) are not legally required to complete 5 days of self-isolation following a positive LFT or PCR. Having said that, the public health advice is to remain at home and avoid contacts if positive, returning to normal after a 2<sup>nd</sup> negative test on day 6.
- As a school, we still advise isolation for 5 days in the case of a positive COVID test.

### **Attendance and absence reporting**

- All COVID absence will be coded as illness unless the student has been required to isolate or quarantine.
- We are still required to supply remote education where possible to those self-isolating due to COVID, so will continue to make this available for students absent as a direct result of a positive COVID test, or a requirement to isolate or quarantine.
- As a reminder, if a student (or member of staff) is unwell for reasons other than COVID, they should remain at home until they feel well enough to return. Stomach viruses are highly contagious. To prevent spread, stay home for 48 hours after your vomiting, diarrhoea, and fever have gone away.

### **Catch it, Bin it, Kill it**

- Good personal hygiene, hand washing, “catch it, bin it, kill it” remain the best way to protect the whole school community from any infection. Therefore, hand sanitiser will still be available at the entrance to buildings and students are of course able to bring their own if they wish.
- Masks are no longer recommended for use in schools, however any member of the school community who wishes to continue wearing one may do so.
- We will continue to ensure adequate ventilation in classrooms and other spaces around the school in line with current recommendations.

### **Dining arrangements and clubs**

From Monday, we will re-open the dining rooms for students to eat their lunch with the following arrangements in place across the school:

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**Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust**  
Charity, incorporated in England and Wales  
Registration Number 7451660, Limited by Guarantee

## **Tonbridge**

Sixth Form – to use Hub and Cafe  
All other year groups to use Mezz and Dining Hall

12.40: Year 11 Mezz, Year 10 Dining Hall  
12.50: Year 9 Mezz, Year 7 and 8 Dining Hall

## **Sevenoaks**

Re-open the Pasta and Snack Bar with all main meals served via main servery

12.40: Key Stage 4  
12.50: Key Stage 3

At break time, the following will be in place:

## **Tonbridge**

Dining Hall: KS3  
Mezz: KS4  
Sixth Form Café & Hub: Sixth Form

## **Sevenoaks**

Main Service Area: KS3  
Pasta and Snack Bar: KS4

## **Clubs**

We will be removing the COVID related Key Stage restriction on clubs (some will continue to operate for specific students due to content), updated details of available opportunities will be shared with students once changes have been made. For the time-being students should continue to follow the current timetable.

## **Trips and visits**

We have already started looking at trips and visits we are able to run this year, as well as planning for trips in the next academic year. We are excited to be able to reinstate the Weald Challenge for Year 8 students, the planning for this is already well advanced with the sessions planned and booked.

I would, however, like to draw your attention to the ongoing challenge of arranging trips outside of the UK, which continue to be difficult as a result of both COVID, and also the current political unrest in Europe. We will keep the situation under review, but at the current time we do not have any planned trips outside of the UK for the rest of this academic year.

We have updated our risk assessment, which is available on our website and reflects all of the changes detailed in this letter, and also the caveat that should there be a local or national change to the current guidelines we would of course be expected to respond.

I would like to thank you, as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs E Bone**  
Headteacher