

KLA Bulletin

Thursday, November 5th 2020

Good morning everyone!

As we begin Lockdown #2, I wanted to write to update you on the implications of the new restrictions on school life at KLA. The updated guidance from the Department for Education arrived in my inbox at 5pm last night (!) and has the following implications for us:

- As we are now in what is, officially, a higher risk 'Tier' we now need to move to mandatory wearing of face-coverings in communal indoor areas for everyone in the building. For the avoidance of doubt, indoor communal areas for KLA will be interpreted as 'anywhere indoors that is not a classroom', including corridors, toilets and canteen space. This government guidance comes into effect officially on Monday, 9th November, although clearly, we would like to make this happen tomorrow wherever possible.
- Masks are not recommended to be worn in classrooms, as they can impede communication, although we have consistently said throughout that we are happy for anyone who wants to wear one in classrooms to do so.
- It is for each individual to provide their own mask, although we do have a small supply of single-use disposable masks to provide for any case where someone does not have one. These are for individual situations however - we cannot supply these repeatedly to the same people every day! It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children attend with either a new, disposable mask each day or a fabric one that has been cleaned as per public health guidance.
- PE lessons will continue to be held outside as they currently are. The guidance seems to make no new restriction on sport in school (although we know that it does place restrictions on sport outside school.)
- We are going to have to continue to keep windows open for a part of each lesson. We continue to check the temperatures in classrooms each day, to ensure thermal comfort levels for both staff and pupils are appropriate. As before, if we deem that classroom temperatures are too low as a result of the need for this ventilation, staff can decide to allow pupils to wear coats during those lessons. This has not yet needed to happen, as the school heating system is working at full capacity (and costing us a fortune in the process!)

The school continues to function successfully through the pandemic, and attendance remains impressive. If you are worried for any reason about your child's continuing attendance as the situation clearly worsens across the country, please get in touch with me via email and we will work with you to do what is in the best interests of yourselves and your families. I completely appreciate that every individual family's circumstances are different, and we will agree the best approach with you to try to make sure that neither your family's safety nor your children's education are negatively affected.

My thanks, as always, go to everyone – pupils, parents and staff alike – for the brilliant way the school community is working together to get through these circumstances. I must stress however that where pupils have been asked not to attend school for the purposes of self-isolation, they must stay at home for the full fourteen days – it is not appropriate for them to be outside their home at any time during that period. Equally, if someone in your household does develop symptoms at any time, please do not send your child to school – this is simply irresponsible and unacceptable.

I know that cases will continue to affect us, as they are everywhere, and I am happy that each case we have had within the KLA community has been correctly-managed and that our controls are meeting the needs of the situation so far. As always, if you have any queries please do email me at alan.fletcher@kla.eastern-mat.co.uk and I will do what I can to answer them!

Best wishes,

Alan Fletcher