



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

22nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

My apologies for the high volume of communication at the moment but in the present circumstances there is a lot to get across.

I'd like to deal with two common questions and issues that have come up over the last few days.

How we respond to a positive Covid case in school

I wrote to you on Monday 21st September to explain that we had our first positive Covid case in school. With cases increasing both locally and nationally it is extremely likely that we will have further cases in school.

Where there are positive Covid cases in schools, each case is different and we will work in partnership with DfE and Public Health England to agree next steps. You will be contacted directly (either by us, or by track and trace) if there is a need for your son or daughter to self-isolate. It will come as no surprise that there is a local spike in students presenting with cold and flu like symptoms. At any given time we have a number of pupils who are awaiting tests, when there is a positive test it is essential that parents use the direct contact link on our website to report this case.

Busy corridors and expectations around social distancing in school

Despite all of the control measures that we have in place in school we still have busy corridors. This is something we looked at carefully in the summer as we worked through the DfE guidance and the risk assessment. We have looked at many alternatives but if we want all students to be in school and if we want them to have their normal lessons with their specialist teachers then we have to have movement along the corridors.

I am well aware that this seems inconsistent with the social distancing we experience outside of school but it is permitted within the DfE risk assessment and the only alternative is that we would have to seriously reduce the timetable and range of subjects that pupils are taught.

We have built in additional movement time between lessons and we have ensured students are moving in one direction along with prioritisation of outside routes and external doors. We are told that the risk of passing briefly in the corridor is low risk. The configuration of our building and the size of our school does not make this easy. Staggering movement would actually lead to more prolonged movement time and classes being held in corridors for longer whilst another class was being held back.

What would help, and we would recommend, is if parents would encourage more students to wear face coverings in corridors and busy spaces around school.

Please be assured we keep our risk assessment under review taking into consider the local level of transmission and national picture

Despite all of the current challenges there is a very positive atmosphere in school and students are getting access to their full range of lessons taught by specialist teachers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CA Sugden', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr CA Sugden
Headteacher